からくりサーカス
16
藤田和日郎
SS comics
小学館
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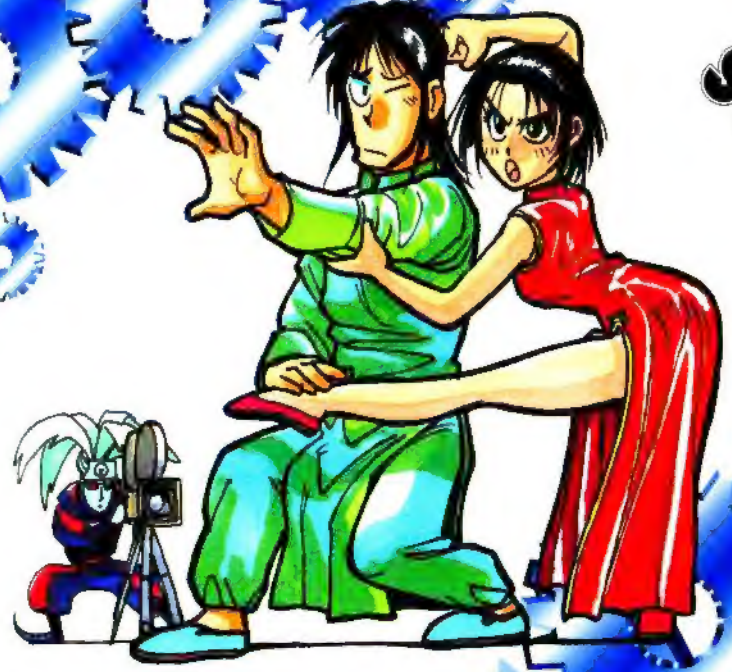
SS comics



Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

錬金術師・白銀と、貧しくとも気高き女・フランシーヌとの、
あまりに悲しき運命の恋…
明かされた最大の謎に打ちひしがれる鳴海の元へ、
最強の自動人形の一体・パンタローネ来襲!
一方、仲町サーカスに救われたギイは、しろがねと
ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇、前地脱出?の16巻であります。

あー そうかい そうかい

ふう。よーし、終わったぞ。ってしようがなかったエピソードをやることができました。
この後、「からくりサーカス」は、どんどんスピードを上げてゆきたいと思います。
もちろん、乗り降り自由。でも、どうせなら、最後までつかってもらいたいなあ。
仁、白金、フランシーヌ。こいつらのことも見守ってやってね。
さっと今に……おっととと。

藤田和日郎

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

ブカブカ ドンドン。ついに参りました新世紀。若いもの老いも、男も女も、一律平等21世紀人と相成ったのでありまする。「どなたにも平等に面白い」をスローガンに、からくりサーカス全団員、より一層頑張って参る所存でありますので、御様よろしくお願い申し上げます。
斬くこうぞ筆で、長きに渡りご白金、白銀の物語の結末と、最後の新たなる戦いの幕開きを告げる16巻、直撮の御見物を頂けます。

●AD／伊波光司 ●ロゴ&カバーデザイン／笹子典子+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ ●カバーイラスト／藤田和日郎

16
藤田和日郎
からくりサーカス
Le Cirque de Karakuri

★前巻までのあらすじ★

自動人形を追い中国へ渡った鳴海は、鍵を握る拳法の梁師父と再会。

師父は、遠い昔の錬金術を学ぶ兄弟・白銀と白金の物語を読み始める。

すると、鳴海の中で知るはずもない白銀の記憶がよみがえり、いつしか白銀として昔話を語り出す。

「同じ女性を愛してしまったために大きく狂い出した兄弟の運命。最愛の妻・フランシーヌを弟にさらわれた白銀は、全てを捨てて一人を追う。

だが、長い旅の果てに見つけた彼女は幽閉され病に冒されていた。白銀は我を忘れて錬金術に没頭し、万能の霊薬「生命の水」を生む〝柔らかい石〟を完成させるが、時遅く……」

そんな話の最中、敵の気配が…!?

からくりサーカス16　目次

からくり～白金・白銀
第13幕　自動人形急襲……5
第14幕　復讐連鎖……23
第15幕　あの御方……41
第16幕　生命の泉へ……59
第17幕　師父撃拳……77
第18幕　一時閉幕……101
幕間Ⅰ～最後の頁……119
幕間Ⅱ～ギイ イン ザ ナカマチ・サーカス……137
幕間Ⅲ～〈しろがねピンチ〉イン ザ ナカマチ・サーカス…155
幕間Ⅳ～そしてまた開幕ベル……173

■藤田和日郎■

Karakuri~Bai Jin and Bai Yin

からくり~白金・白銀

第13幕 Act 13

自動人形急襲

The Automata Attack

HE FORCED ME TO LEARN MARTIAL ARTS WITHOUT EVEN ASKING WHAT I WANTED! I HATED BEING AT HOME, SO I LEFT, BUT NOW HE'S SICK, AND I GOT WORRIED...

MY DAD IS SOOO SELFISH. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN COMPLETELY OBSESSED WITH MARTIAL ARTS. EVEN WHEN MOM DIED, HE WOULDN'T TAKE A BREAK FROM HIS PRACTICE.

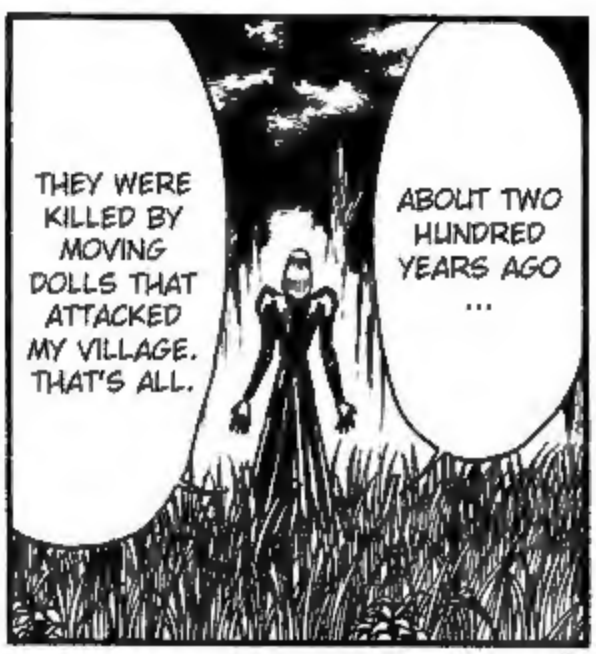
SORRY. I'M NOT HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE NOT TOO GOOD AT THIS WHOLE HUMAN COMMUNICATION THING, HUH?
HEY, LUCILLE, WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING? I LOOK LIKE A REAL IDIOT TALKING TO MYSELF!
.....
Gimme some kind of response here, jeez
THEY'RE DEAD.
THEY WERE KILLED 200 YEARS AGO, BY THE ALITOMATA ...
BUT SURE, FINE. DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY, BY THE WAY? EVEN YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE SOMEONE, RIGHT?
AHH... THAT AGAIN? YOU'RE AN IMMORTAL SHIROGANE, WAS THAT IT?
THAT'S KINDA HARD TO BELIEVE!
THAT THE DEATH OF ONE'S FLESH AND BLOOD HAS EVER BEEN A SUBJECT FOR JOKES, IN ANY ERA...
YOUNG LADY, I DON'T BELIEVE ...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
...THE "ALITOMATA"...
2
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY ...
OH...

THOUGH MY MEMORIES HAVE GROWN FAINT ...
MY HUSBAND WAS A QUIET MAN, BUT HE WAS A HARD WORKER WITH A NICE SMILE.
WE HAD TWO CHILDREN. THE YOUNGER WAS A SPIRITED BOY...
MY DAUGHTER DID NOT DIE AT THAT TIME, BUT... SHE IS NO LONGER ALIVE.

...NOT REALLY.
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A STORY, YOUNG LADY...

LUCILLE, WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM ...?
IS IT TOO HARD TO TELL ME AFTER ALL...?

AN ALCHEMIST HAPPENED TO PASS THROUGH THE VILLAGE, AND FROM HIM THE SURVIVORS RECEIVED THE ELIXIR THAT MADE US IMMORTAL.
THE DOLLS SCATTERED THE SEEDS OF ZONAPHA SYNDROME, AND THEN DEPARTED.
SINCE THEN WE HAVE PURSUED THE DOLLS, SEEKING REVENGE.


ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO ...
THEY WERE KILLED BY MOVING DOLLS THAT ATTACKED MY VILLAGE. THAT'S ALL.

KUKU... IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO BELIEVE ME.
.....
UM ...

IN THOSE ACTION SCENES, DO YOU TRULY DEFEAT YOUR OPPONENT?
IN THE ROMANTIC SCENES, DO YOU TRULY LOVE YOUR PARTNER?

IN WHAT TYPES OF FILMS?

MOSTLY ACTION... LOTS OF FIGHTING... AND A LITTLE ROMANCE ...

BY THE WAY, YOUNG LADY. YOU SAID YOU WERE AN ACTRESS IN HONG KONG?
OH... YEAH.

4

YOU'RE JUST LIKE US, AREN'T YOU, MING-XIA?
THAT'S RIGHT ...
YOU SIMPLY PRETEND TO BE, DON'T YOU...

EVERYTHING IS JUST A PERFOR-MANCE!
OF COURSE NOT! ACTORS DON'T REALLY FIGHT OR FALL IN LOVE.

THE SAME AS US SHIRO-GANE ...
AND THE AUTOMATA AS WELL.

THOUGH WE ARE NOT ALIVE, WE PRETEND TO BE LIVING...

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

UNFOR-TUNATE-LY, IT SEEMS I HAVE VISI-TORS.
COME ON, ARE YOU EVEN LIS-TENING TO ME ?!

IF YOU CONTINUE STRAIGHT FROM HERE, YOU SHOULD MEET NARUMI. GO AHEAD ON YOUR OWN.
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND A THING ABOUT--
がさ
がさ

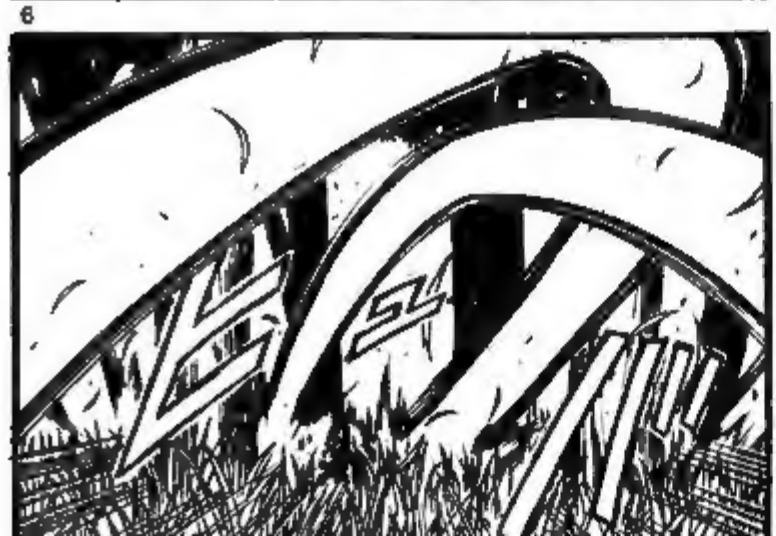
HUH?

5

WH-WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING ?!
NEVER MIND... YOU KNOW, I HAVE A FEELING I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FIND YOURSELF IN SUCH CONFLICT WITH YOUR FATHER.

!?

GO!!
H-HUH?



WHO... ARE THESE WEIRDOS ...?
THEY'RE PROBABLY ONLY AFTER SHIRO-GANE.
YOU SHOULD GO, YOUNG LADY.

THESE ARE THE AUTO-MATA!
EEK!

PANTA-
LONE!
カシャ
カシャ
カシャ
OLD ... HAG ...
U-UGH ...
OH, IS THAT SO? BUT, YOU KNOW...
WE FOUND YOU... WE'LL KILL YOU...
THE VERY FIRST SHIRO-GANE...
!
LUCILLE.
BY SUCH RUN-OF-THE-MILL CREATURES AS YOU.
THIS OLD HAG WON'T BE KILLED ...
YOU'RE AS LIVELY AS EVER ...
AS ANNOYING AS HE IS, YOU'VE BEEN A THORN IN OUR SIDE FOR FAR LONGER.
DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WITH US, LUCILLE.
THAT ESPECIALLY LIVELY SHIROGANE ...
9
8

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME TO PUT YOU OUT OF OUR MISERY.

MEMBERS OF ANOTHER SCHOOL?! OR MAYBE--
WH-WHAT KIND OF STRANGE ENEMY IS IT, MASTER?!

THE ELDER BROTHER, BAI YIN, DEPARTED, WHILE THE YOUNGER, BAI JIN, REMAINED.
FOLLOWING FRANCINE'S DEATH IN THE VILLAGE OF KROHG...
.....

IT SPEAKS OF... AUTO-MATA...

I'M NOT SURE I FULLY UNDER-STAND IT.
...YOU TRY READING THIS, WANG ...
!

JIN'S HEART WAS NO LONGER THAT OF A HUMAN ...
HOW-EVER ...

THE VIL-LAGERS OF KROHG ...
THEY HAD STOLEN THAT LAUGH-TER...
FRAN-CINE HAD LOVED THE CAR-NIVAL.
THE CLOWNS AND THE PERFORMERS MADE HER LAUGH... IT WAS WHAT SHE HAD LOVED THE MOST.

AND FINALLY, THEY HAD SET A FIRE AND BURNED HER TO DEATH.
INSTEAD OF GIVING HER THE CARNIVAL SHE DESERVED, THEY HAD FORCED HER INTO A TINY HUT, CHAINED HER LIKE A CRIMINAL...

HE VOWED REVENGE AGAINST THE VIL-LAGERS.

WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER. SOON I WILL RESTORE YOU TO LIFE ...
FRANCINE . OH FRANCINE

JIN WAS NOT AWARE OF THAT.
B-BUT, THAT WOMAN SET THE FIRE HERSELF...

WE WILL MAKE THEM ATONE ...
AND THEN, TOGETHER, ...

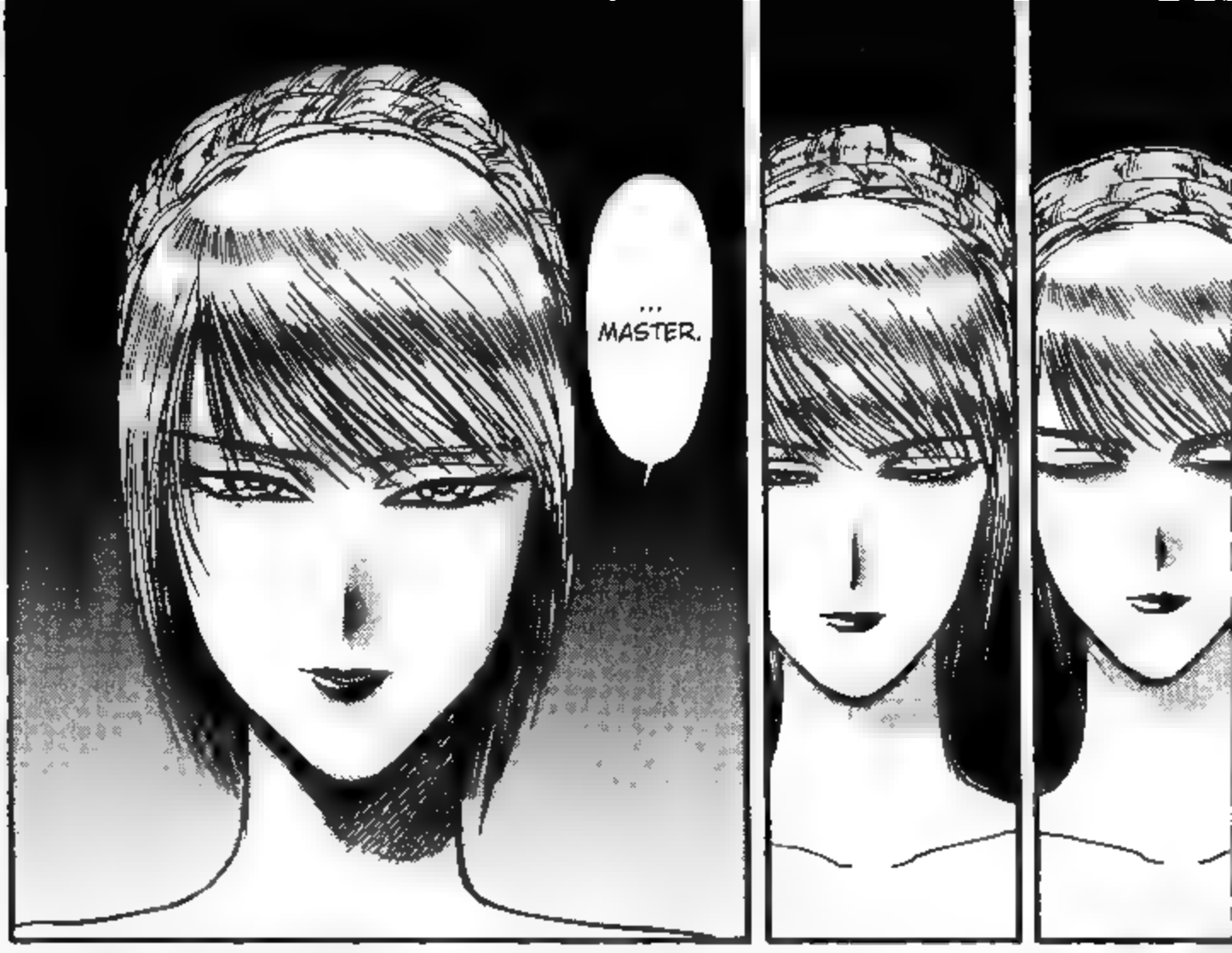
EVEN IF HE HAD EVER KNOWN.
BY THIS TIME HE WOULD NO LONGER HAVE BELIEVED IT...

AND 23 YEARS PASSED.

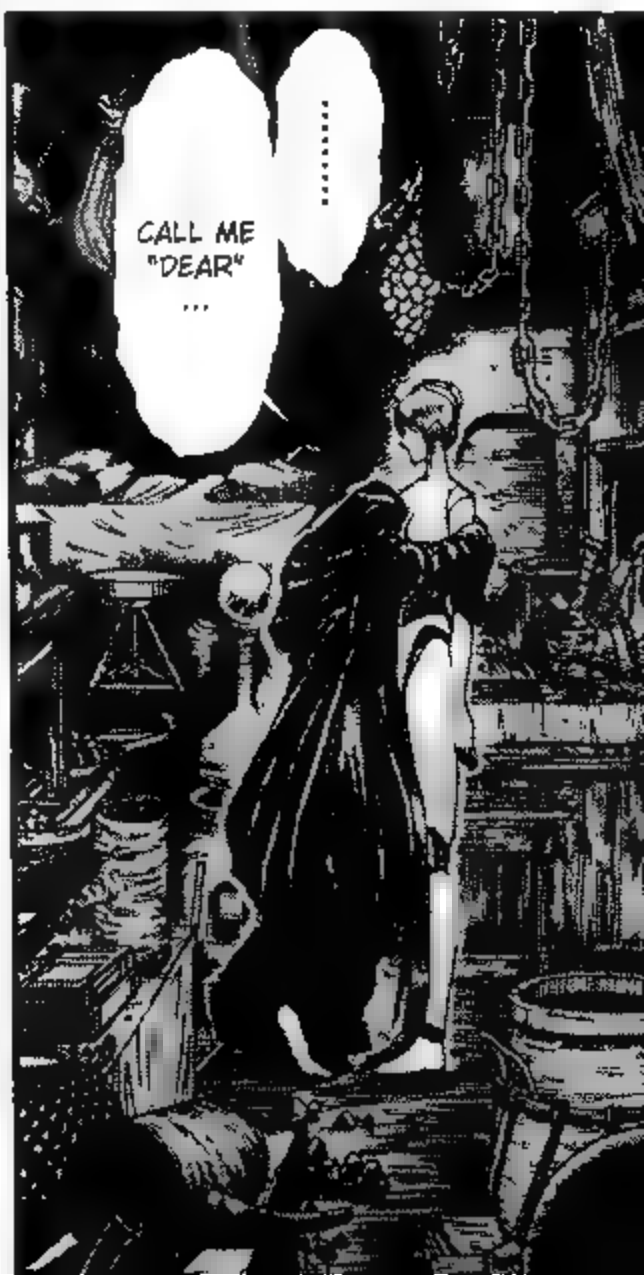
FRANCINE...
THOSE LOVELY LIPS ...
THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE ...
AND THAT SUPPLE BODY ...
WILL RETURN TO THIS WORLD ...
THIS HAIR IS THE REAL THING...
I'VE KEPT IT IMMERSED IN A PRESERVATIONAL CULTURE FLUID SINCE THEN ...
MY BROTHER GAVE IT TO ME THAT DAY ...
IT'S HERS ...

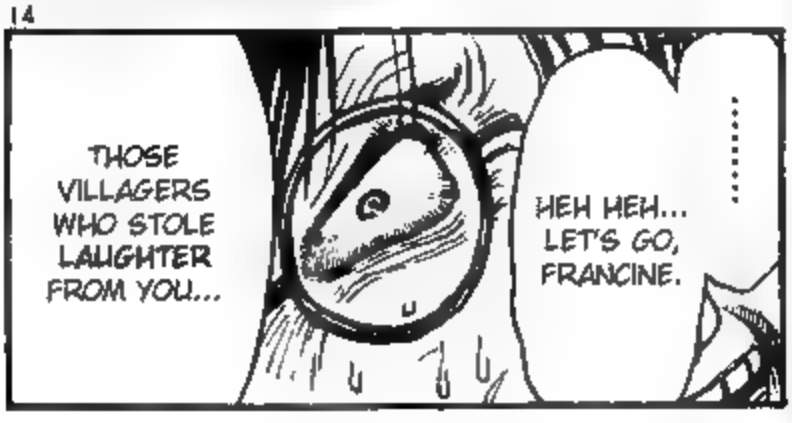
AND FOR THE BLOOD
AN ELIXIR CREATED FROM THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF MY LIFE, THE SOFT STONE...
AQUA VITAE!

NOW, FRANCINE ...
I WILL GRANT YOU LIFE.


... MASTER.

VERY WELL... DEAR.
FRAN-CINE...

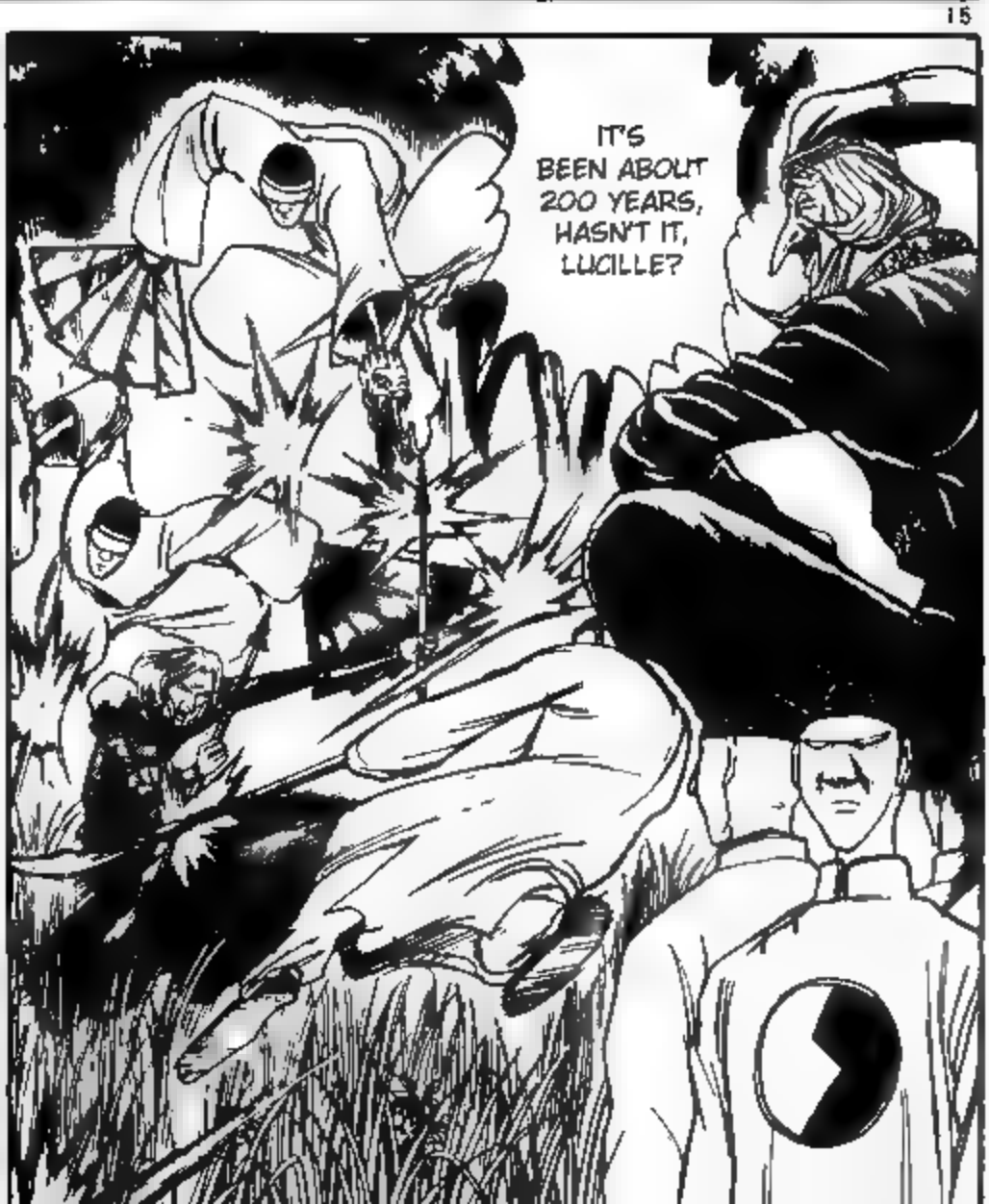

.....
CALL ME "DEAR" ...


THOSE VILLAGERS WHO STOLE LAUGHTER FROM YOU...
HEH HEH... LET'S GO, FRANCINE.
.....

THIS TIME, WE HAVE SOME FRIENDS WITH A PRESENT TO GIVE THEM!!

SINCE THAT DAY KROHG VILLAGE BECAME OUR MASTERPIECE.

.....


IT'S BEEN ABOUT 200 YEARS, HASN'T IT, LUCILLE?

ARE GETTING SLOPPY. A SHIRO-GANE'S MAIN SELLING POINT IS THEIR SANG-FROID, NO?
OH? WHAT'S WRONG, LUCILLE? YOUR MOVE-MENTS ...
.....!
TCH ...!
HM!

MAST-
MAS-TER PANTA-LONE
WH-WHAT... MY BODY FLUIDS ...
AND MY BODY... FEEL... STRANGE ...
I SEE... YOU'VE HIRED THIS GIRL AS A BODY-GUARD, HAVE YOU?
CONDUCTING CHI INTO THE OPPONENT'S BODY WITH YOUR HANDS... THAT TECHNIQUE DID EXIST IN THIS COUNTRY, COME TO THINK OF IT.
YIKES... THEIR BLOOD IS SILVER! THEY REALLY AREN'T HUMAN ...!
WHO ASKED FOR YOUR HELP?
MING-XIA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP AND RUN!
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!

DON'T PATRONIZE ME ... CLE
A CHINESE PERSON WIL.. NEVER RUN AWAY AND ABANDON SOMEONE WHO SAVED THEM ONCE!
MING-XIA!
SHUT UUUP!
MY DAD... WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME
BESIDES, IT PISSES ME OFF HOW THESE WEIRD DOLLS ARE PRETENDING TO BE CHINESE! IF I LET THEM SHOW ME UP
I'LL BE YOUR OPPO-NENT!
COME ON, YOU STUPID DOLLS!

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

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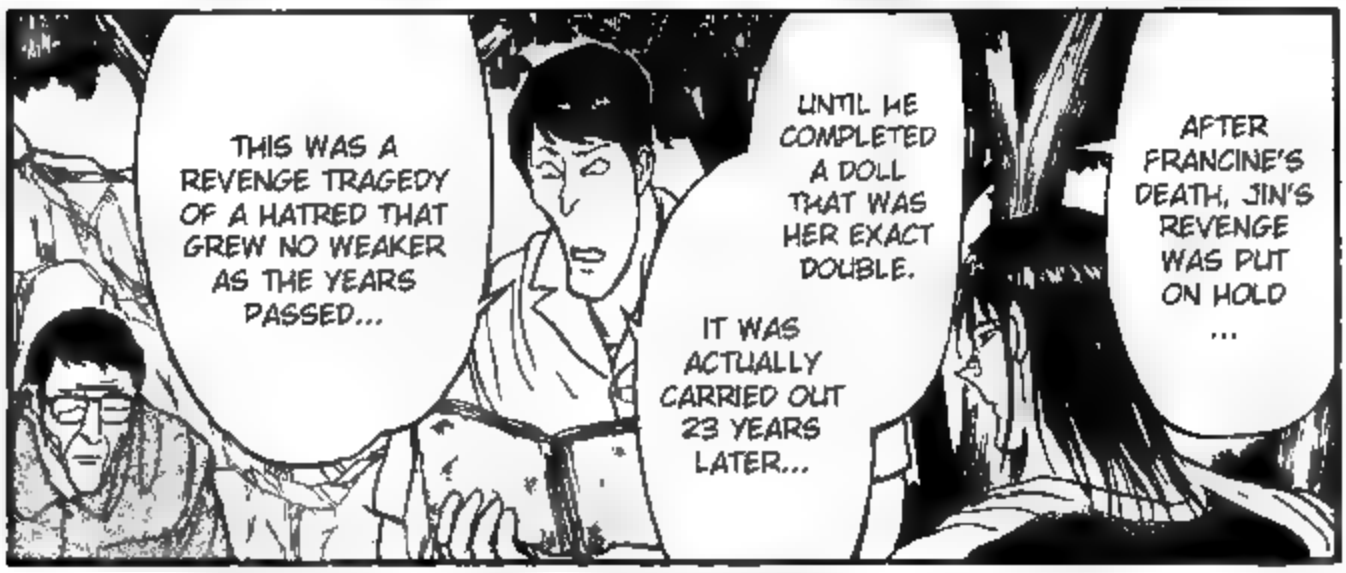
Act 14
Chain of Revenge


THIS WAS A REVENGE TRAGEDY OF A HATRED THAT GREW NO WEAKER AS THE YEARS PASSED...
UNTIL HE COMPLETED A DOLL THAT WAS HER EXACT DOUBLE.
IT WAS ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT 23 YEARS LATER...
AFTER FRANCINE'S DEATH, JIN'S REVENGE WAS PUT ON HOLD ...

THAT DAY 200 YEARS AGO WHEN KROHG VILLAGE BECAME OUR MASTERPIECE!
HEE HEE HEE HEE! HAVE YOU LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO FORGET IT, LUCILLE?

TWENTY-THREE YEARS AGO, YOU STOLE FRANCINE'S LAUGHTER.
YOU STOLE HER CARNIVAL.
YOU STOLE HER LIFE.

TO SETTLE YOUR DEBT.
NOW THE TIME HAS COME...

IS A DISEASE THAT WILL KILL YOU UNLESS YOU MAKE OTHERS LAUGH.
THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME YOU HAVE CONTRACTED...

ALL OF YOU, BECOME HER CLOWNS.
COME ON. NOW, TRY TO MAKE MY FRANCINE LAUGH.

THE SEN-TENCE S DE-CIDED
OH, SHUT UP.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY JUDGEMENT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A DIFFERENT GENERATION
W-WE... WERE ONLY CHILDREN 23 YEARS AGO...
GGH ...
WAH HAHA HAHA HA!
INTO A BOUQUET FOR FRAN-CINE!
I'LL BUNDLE UP YOUR DYING SCREAMS . .

TWISTED WITH GRIEF AND HATRED ...
BY THE WILL OF A SINGLE ALCHEMIST ...
KROHG VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED THAT DAY.

M-MAS-TER ...
YOU'RE SAYING TH S IS ACTUALLY TRUE...
AND THESE THINGS... THESE AUTOMATA ARE STILL MOVING...

AND THEY'VE COME TO THIS MOUNTAIN ...

WH-WHAT THE HELL...?
LUCILLE AND THE OTHERS WERE INNOCENT ...

DO YOU UNDER-STAND, MING-XIA? THIS IS MY FIGHT.
GET OUT OF THE WAY.
BUT AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, ALL OF OUR CREATOR'S ACTIONS ARE RIGHT AND PROPER.
THAT MAY BE SO.

THINK AGAIN!

AND EVEN NOW, THEY CONTINUE TO SPREAD ZONAPHA SYNDROME
200 YEARS AGO, THE AUTOMATA WERE CREATED, TO CARRY OUT A SINGLE MAN'S REVENGE...
HYO!

I'M NOT HELPING YOU FIGHT JUST OUT OF SOME CHIVALROUS SPIRIT.
DON'T MISUNDER-STAND ME, LUCILLE.

... UNDER-STOOD.

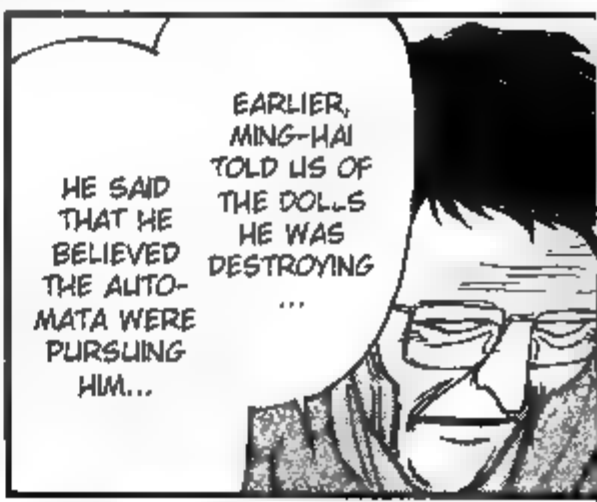
IT'S BECAUSE MY DAD CONTRACTED ZONAPHA SYNDROME TOO...

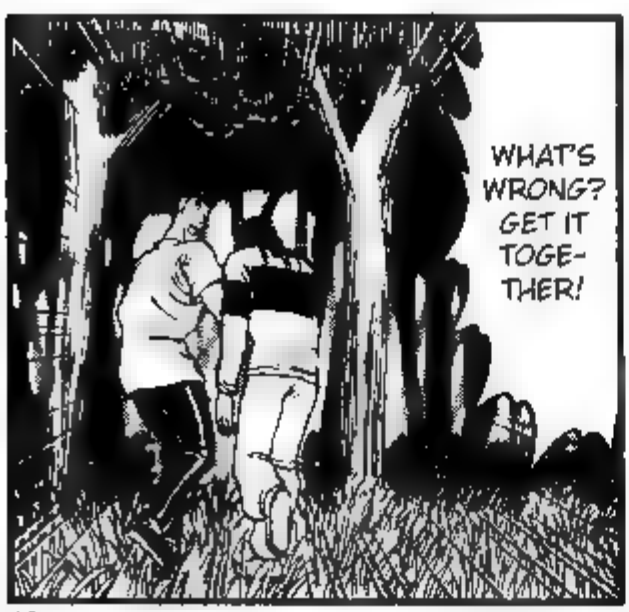
COME NOW, YOU SHIFTLESS CHINA DOLLS. SHOW A LITTLE MORE HOSPITALITY TO OUR GUEST!

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, YOU BRAVE YOUNG LADY.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL LET YOU JOIN THE FUN TOO.

MASTER... I HEARD SOMETHING JUST NOW.
!

MISS MING-XIA IS IN DANGER!
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT OLD WOMAN WITH MISS MING-XIA CALLED HERSELF A SHIROGANE TOO!


HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE AUTOMATA WERE PURSUING HIM...
EARLIER, MING-HAI TOLD US OF THE DOLLS HE WAS DESTROYING ...


WHAT'S WRONG? GET IT TOGE-THER!

YOU STAY RIGHT HERE, MASTER.
LET'S GO, MING-HAI!

MING-XIA...

haah
haah
haah
haah
M-MAN... THESE GUYS ARE STURDY ...
UNLESS YOU COMPLETELY DESTROY THEM WITH CHI, THEY'LL COME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN AND AGAIN.
VERY IMPRESSIVE. YOU'RE QUITE SKILLED, YOUNG LADY.
OF COURSE, THOSE THREE YOU DEFEATED MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT SLOPPY...
BUT EVEN SO, VERY NICE WORK.
CLAP
CLAP
HOWEVER, I THINK THIS WILL END THINGS.

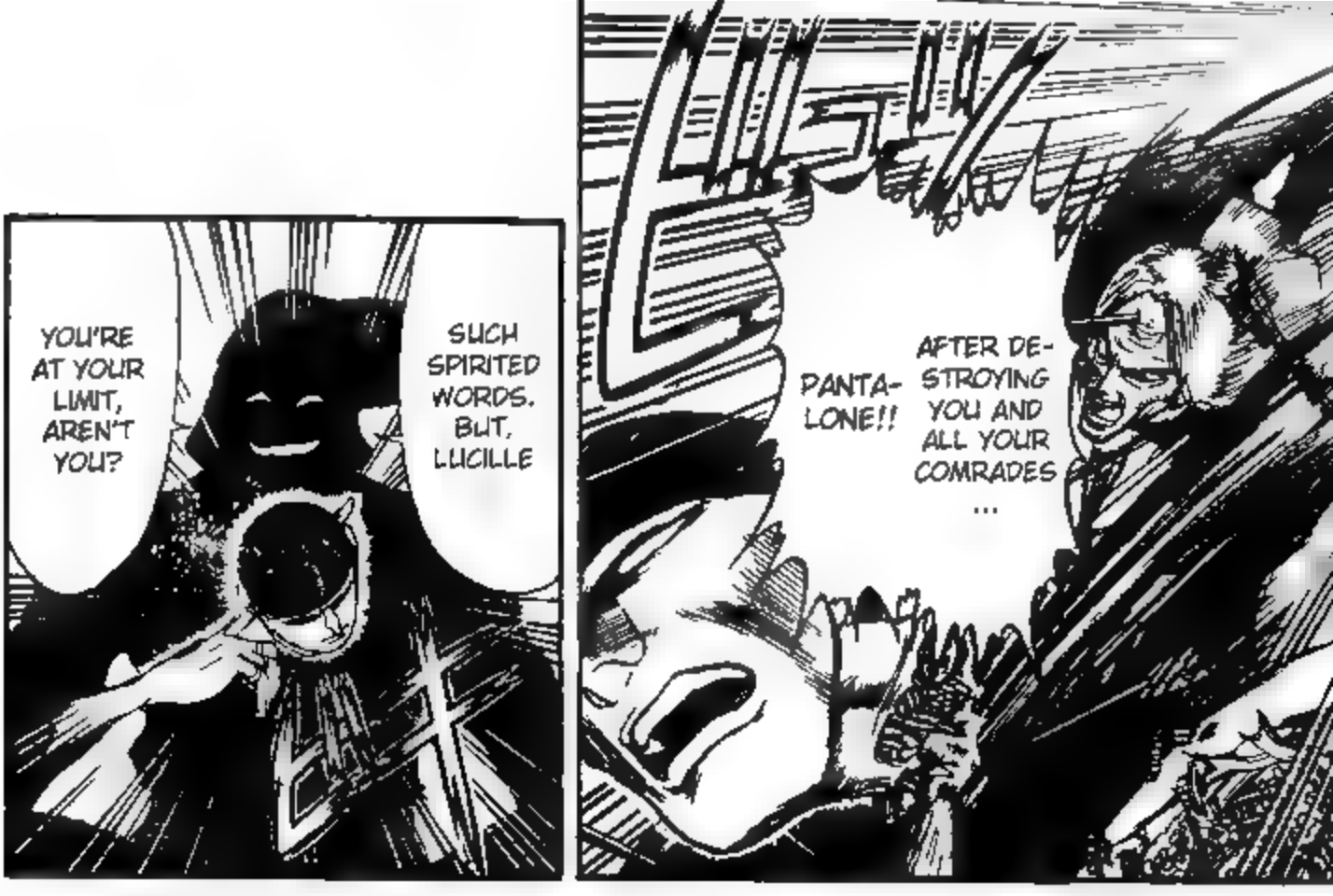
MOVE!
KH...
LU-
CILLE!
NOOO!

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY AS IF I WERE A NORMAL HUMAN.

13

AFTER WHAT I SAW THAT DAY, I CANNOT DIE UNTIL I COLLAPSE EXHAUSTED ...

I'M NOT HUMAN, AFTER ALL.


YOU'RE AT YOUR LIMIT, AREN'T YOU?
SUCH SPIRITED WORDS. BUT, LUCILLE
PANTA-LONE!!
AFTER DE-STROYING YOU AND ALL YOUR COMRADES ...

AGAINST THESE GUYS? I'LL BE FINE.
STOP! YOU'LL DIE IF YOU DO.
LET ME HANDLE THE REST!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CAN'T MOVE IN THOSE DOWDY OLD BAGGY PANTS OF YOURS?!
OH, SHUT UP, YOU SMIRKING OLD COOT! I NOTICE YOU HAVEN'T BUDGED FROM YOUR SEAT!
YOU'RE AS TRICKY AS EVER.
OHO, YOU'RE A GALLANT YOUNG GIRL. LUCILLE, YOU SLY OLD FOX...

IS THERE SOME-THING ODD ...
ABOUT THE CLOTHES I WAS GIVEN BY LADY FRANCINE?

WHAT WAS THAT ..?
ピク

RUN
MING-XIA, LOOK OUT!

15

WH

I'LL KILL YOU. I WILL TOLERATE NO DISRESPECT TOWARDS MY LADY FRANCINE.
HE'S... FAST...
WH- WHAT JUST ...?
I... I CAN'T WIN.
THIS DOLL IS NOTHING LIKE THE OTHERS!
SPOOF
SPOOF

ドドド

THAT DOG ...
IS A SHIRO-GANE.

CREAK CREAK CREAK

HURRY UP, THIS WAY!
MING-HAI, I HEAR MORE NOISE

CHINA HOU!
I'M LATE!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

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Act 15
That Person

SHH ...
THESE DOLLS MUST NOT LEARN OF IT.
L-LUCILLE, COULD THAT DOG HAVE DRUNK FROM THAT SPRING WHERE WE THOUGHT DAD WAS HEADED...?

SILVER FUR AND SILVER EYES? SO YOU'VE MADE EVEN DOGS DRINK THE AQUA VITAE, HAVE YOU, LUCILLE?
カサ
カサ

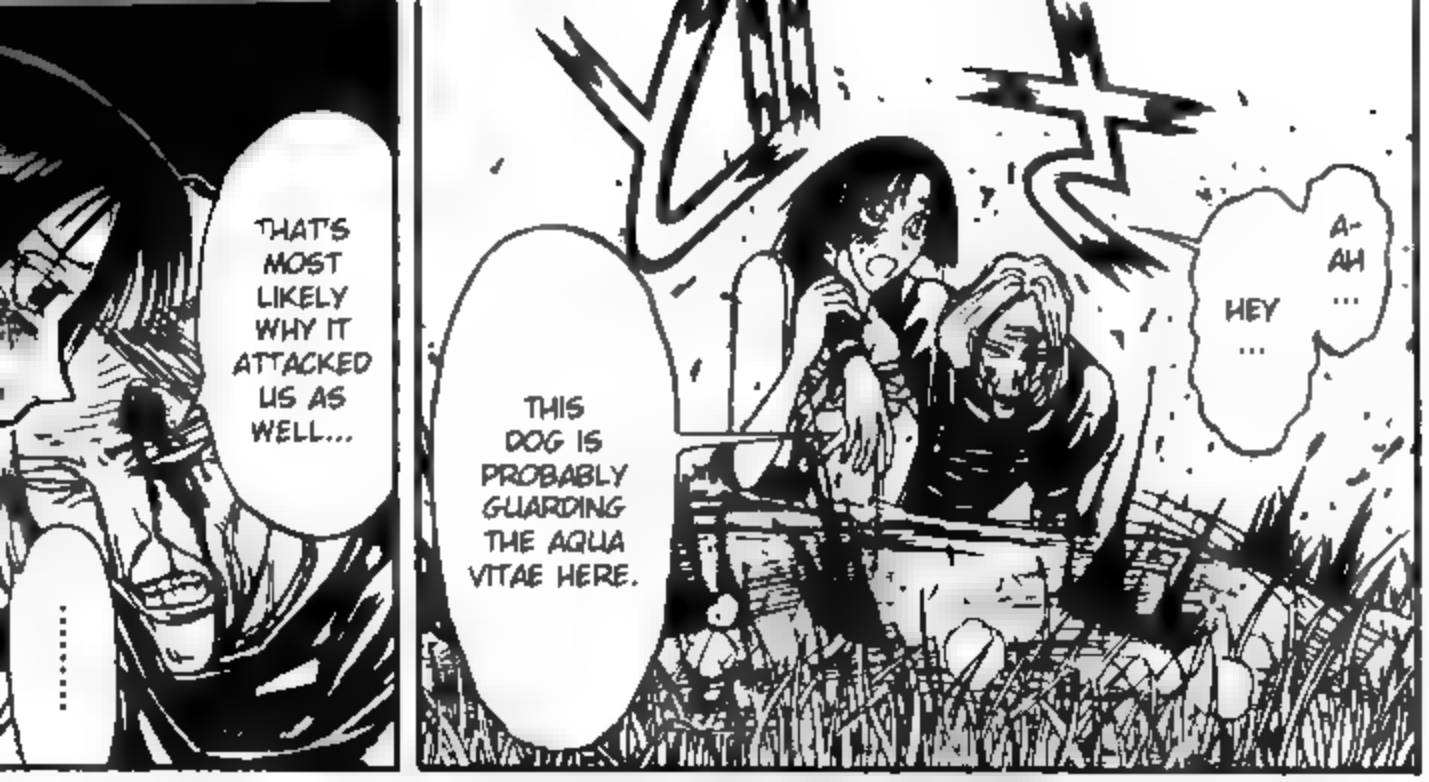
HE'S A WILD DOLL THAT DESTROYS ENEMIES AND ALLIES INDISCRIMINATELY ...
BUT... CHINA HOU... HE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE.

2

!?...
BUT THAT DOG IS DONE FOR.

WHAT'S WRONG? DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO PLAY WITH THE DOG?

HEH HEH ...
IT WAS A LITTLE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT ...
カラ


A-AH ...
HEY ...
THIS DOG IS PROBABLY GUARDING THE AQUA VITAE HERE.
THAT'S MOST LIKELY WHY IT ATTACKED US AS WELL...
.....

YOUNG LADY, YOU WILL NOW BE REPAID FOR SPEAKING ILL ...
OF THE CLOTHING I WAS GIVEN BY LADY FRANCINE.
AND YOU, LUCILLE, WILL TELL ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE NEW SHIROGANE I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.

I SEE .. WELL THEN, LUCILLE
OURS WAS A LONG ACQUAINT-ANCE.

AT THIS RATE, THIS GIRL WILL BE KILLED AS WELL.

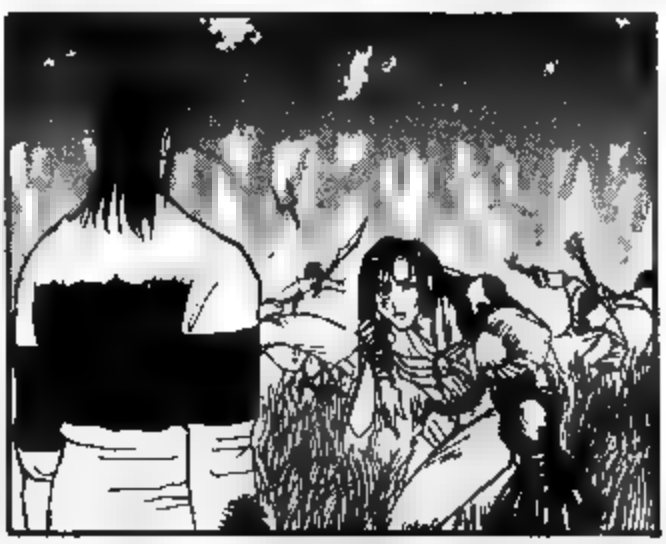
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS. IF YOU MEAN TO KILL ME, HURRY UP AND DO IT.
THIS IS BAD. THERE'S NO WAY TO ALTER OUR SITUATION ...!

NA-
RU-
MI!!
-NANG-
MISS
MING-
XIAAAA!

BE
CAREFUL!
THESE
THINGS
AREN'T
HUMAN!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
GET HIM!
THE
NEW
SHIRO-
GANE?
NARUMI
...?
IS
THAT
HIM,
THEN?

HMM
WANG, THEY CAN'T BE DEFEATED UNLESS THEIR BODIES ARE THOROUGHLY DESTROYED WITH CHI
I AM CALLED A PRODIGY BY MASTER LIANG'S OTHER STUDENTS.
I'M NOT A MAN YOU'LL FIND EASY TO KILL.
...THEN I'LL DO JUST THAT.
WHATEVER THESE THINGS ARE, I HAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON.
AND NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS THEY MAY BE

MING-HAI, WHAT'S WRONG?! WHY ARE YOU ALL SPACED OUT?!



WH-WHAT ...
IT'S NO USE TALKING TO HIM, YOUNG MISS!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT LUCILLE AND I ARE WOUNDED?! YOU NEED TO GET OUT THERE AND FIGHT!

HE'S BEEN IN THAT STATE EVER SINCE.
HE STARTED ACTING STRANGE WHEN MASTER TOLD US ABOUT THE GUY WHO BUILT THESE AUTOMATA.

.....

THEN, DAD IS REALLY SOMEWHERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN?!

HEEEH, THE NERVE OF THESE CHINA DOLLS... THEY ARE DISGRACING MASTER PANTALONE!

I WILL PROTECT YOU, MISS MING-XIA!
PLEASE DON'T WORRY, THOUGH!

HAAAH!
JOIN THEM.

CHINA HOU...
HA-HAA!

EEEYAAAAAH!
HEH... HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
hah
I DIDN'T EVEN NEED MING-HUI FOR...
hah

SO YOU WON'T BE LONELY... NARUMI.
MASTER PANTALONE IS ANGRY. I'M GOING TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW.
BUT THE OTHER HUMANS WILL DIE SOON AS WELL.

9

I AM NOT... MING-HAI!
I'M... WANG ZHIANG-JIAN.
WH-WHAT DID YOU SAY...?

HIS TONGUE HAS A SWORD?!

DIE... NA-RU-MI.

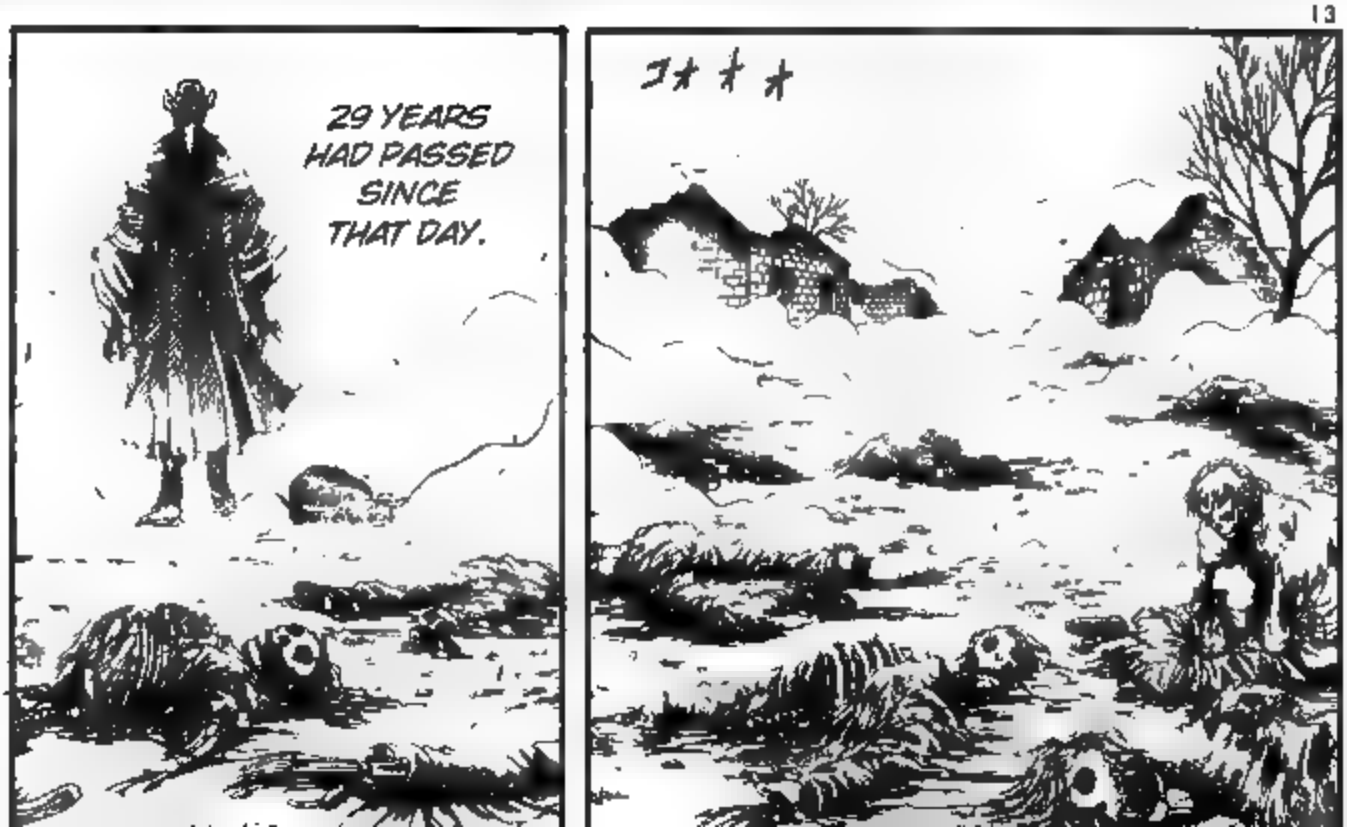
WANG!!
I AM NOT MING-HAI!
HURRY UP AND DIE, NARUMI.

WANG, BEHIND YOU...!
WHA
HE DOVE UNDER-GROUND?!
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ

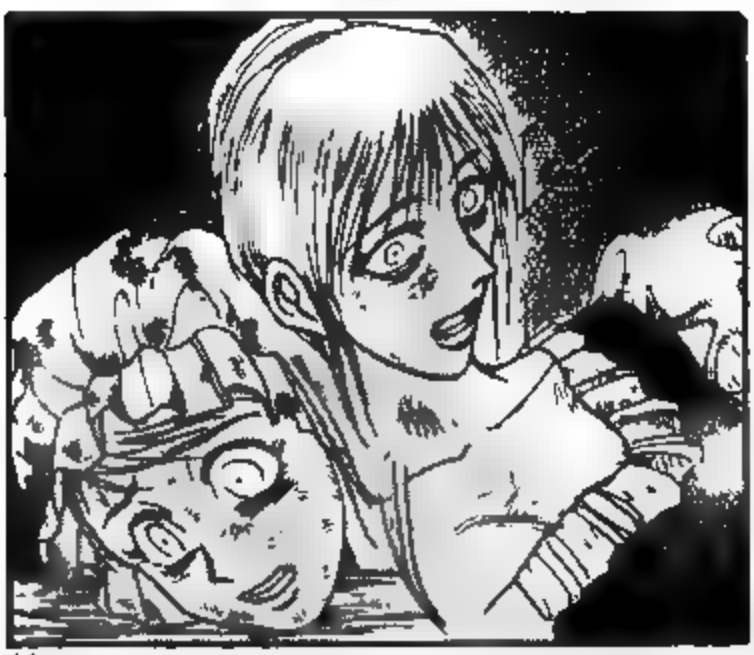
WHO ...?
.....
WANG ?
PLEASE SAY SOME-THING! ANY-THING!
HELLO?!
MING-HAI, PLEASE! WANG IS IN DANGER!
STEP ASIDE, YOUNG LADY.
MING-HAI, WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?

NOT... MING-HAI.
I... AM...
YOU'RE FINISHED, NARUMI.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOTHING SPECIAL AFTER ALL.
YOU ARE TRAPPED IN THOSE MEMORIES, UNABLE TO RETURN TO YOURSELF...
NARUMI, IT SEEMS THAT PERSON'S MEMORIES HAVE RE-AWAKENED INSIDE OF YOU...

YOU ARE A SHIROGANE WHO HAS SWORN TO DESTROY THE AUTOMATA.
BUT LISTEN TO ME. YOU ARE KATOU NARUMI!


29 YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THAT DAY.

THE DAY I PARTED FROM JIN.
SINCE THE DAY I LOST FRANCINE ...



hhi
hhi

14

JIN, OUR PUPPETS... THE HUMAN-LIKE PUPPETS WE BROTHERS WERE TRYING TO CREATE..." THE AUTOMATA...

WHY...? WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING THIS TERRIBLE...!?
WAS IT ALL BECAUSE YOU LOST FRANCINE?

JIN...?
DID YOU ... DO THIS ...?

MEANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
THEY WERE NEVER...

WAS ME.
AND THE ONE WHO STARTED IT ALL... THE ONE WHO ASKED HIM, ON A JOURNEY TO CREATE THOSE

THE ONE WHO SHOWED YOU THESE HORRORS WAS MY BROTHER.
WOMAN... I'M SORRY

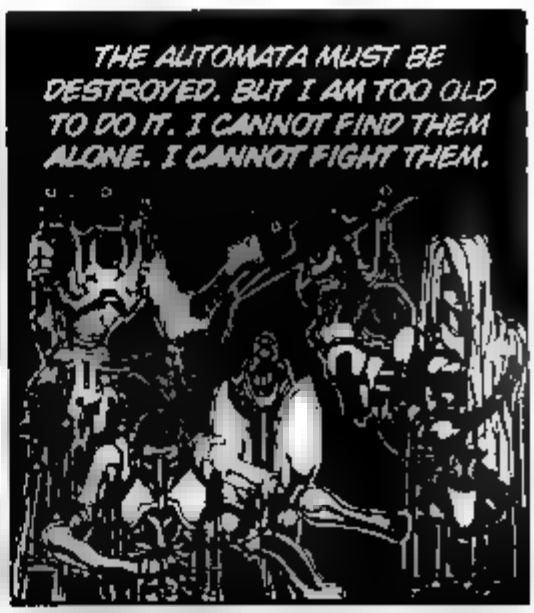
DON'T THANK ME!

TH-THANK YOU..
R-REALLY ?!

THIS IS AN ELIXIR CALLED AQUA VITAE. USE IT TO HELP THE OTHER VILLAGERS.

WHAT... IS THIS?

AND SO ... AND SO WHAT I MUST DO ...



NARU ...
WHAT ?!
NO- MAN
I'M SORRY ...
NO... YOU... YOU ARE...

EARTH TO EARTH ...
AND PUPPET TO PUPPET.

THAT MAN IS NOT NARUMI.
RIGHT NOW...
AH
WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO MING-HAI?!
HE IS THE WANDERING ALCHEMIST, SHIROGANE.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

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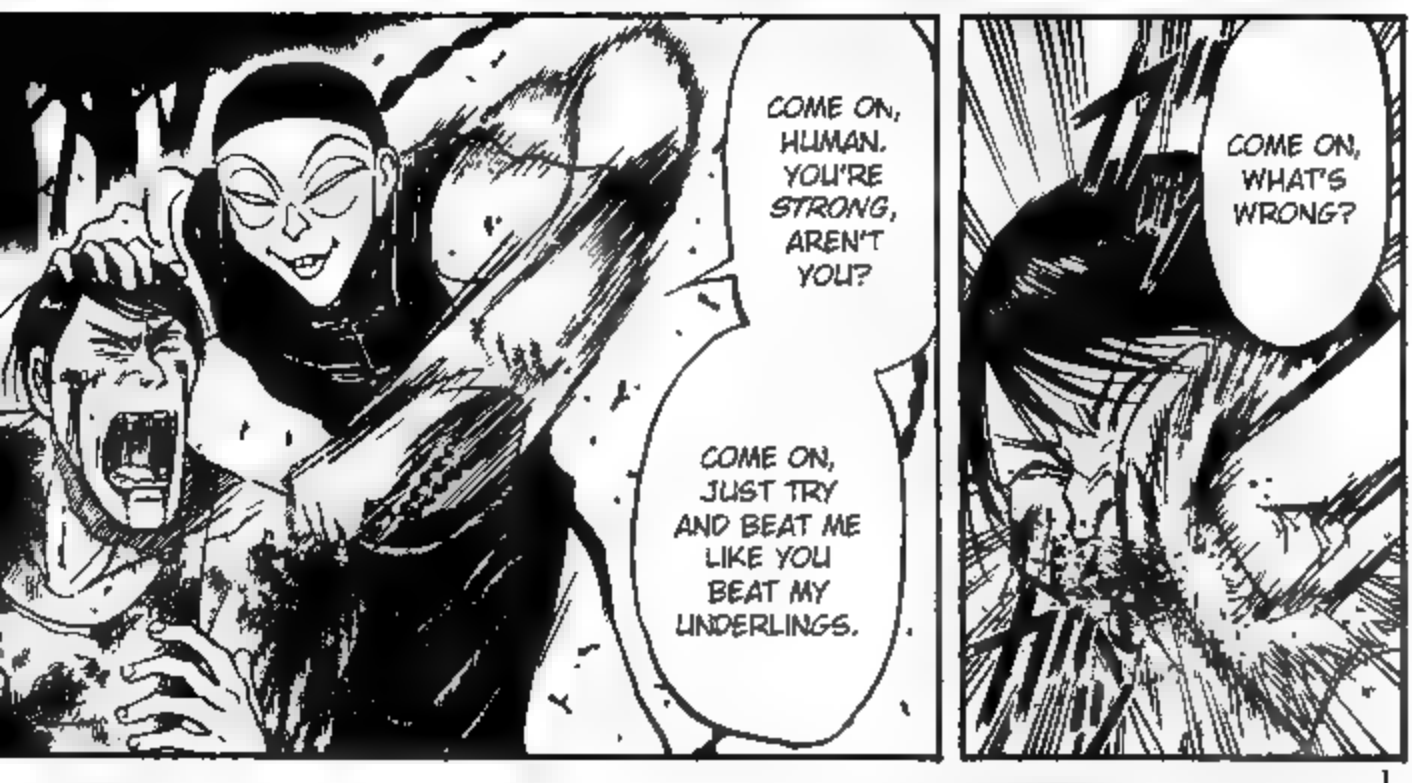
Act 16
To the Spring of Life



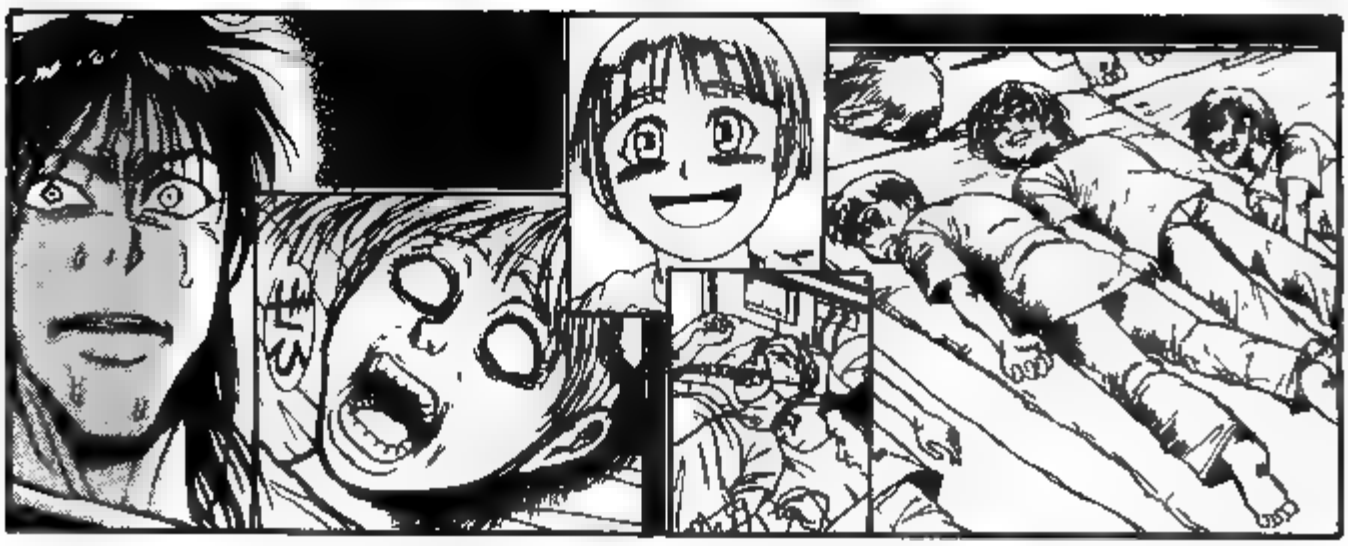
2

TO BRING DEATH AND SUFFERING ... TO HUMANS ..?
DID YOUR CREA-TOR... REALLY WANT YOU

MASTER SHIRO-GANE...

I DON'T NEED ...
YOU TO ...
MING-HAI...

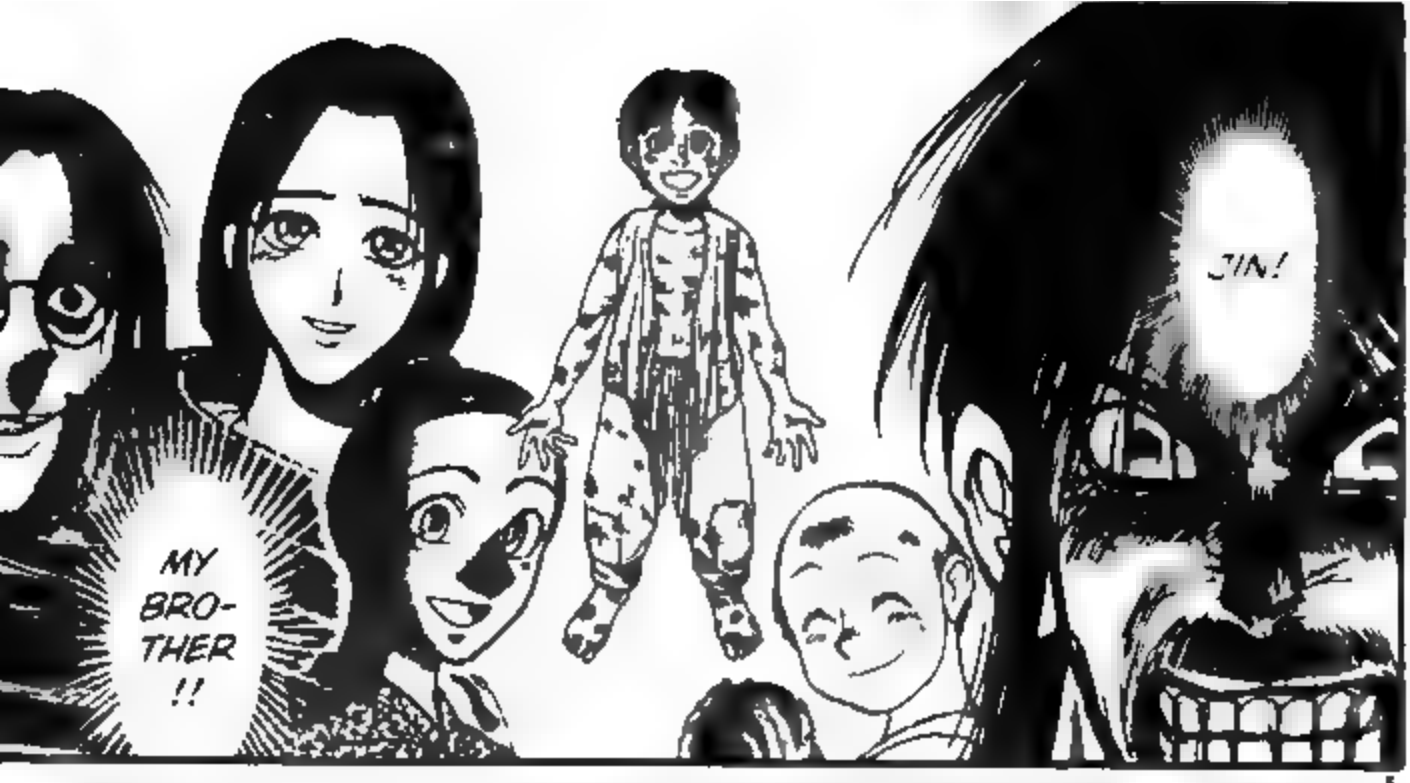
HuM



RIGHT NOW, INSIDE THAT MAN... HIS MEMORIES HAVE BECOME CONFUSED WITH THOSE OF ANOTHER PERSON.
LUCILLE... WHAT IS MING-HAI TALKING ABOUT?
HEH HEH, WHAT'S THIS GUY TALKING ABOUT?
HUHH ...?

WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO YOU, HUMAN ?!
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH ...
HEH HEH ...
DID JIN REALLY... DID HE REALLY TELL YOU TO DO THAT?

IS IT TRUE ?!
IS IT REALLY TRUE ?!


MY BRO-THER !!
JIN!

HE CREATED THE AUTOMATA, AND CARRIED OUT HIS MISTAKEN REVENGE ON KROHG VILLAGE.
WHEN JIN LOST HIS BELOVED FRANCINE...

OF CREATING THE AUTOMATA
SINCE IT WAS I, HIS ELDER BROTHER, WHO ORIGINALLY LURED HIM DOWN THE PATH

I BELIEVED IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH WHAT HE HAD STARTED..

THE AUTOMATA HE LEFT BEHIND HAD ALREADY VANISHED TO PARTS UNKNOWN.

I HAD GROWN OLD..

BUT 29 YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE I LAST PARTED WITH HIM...

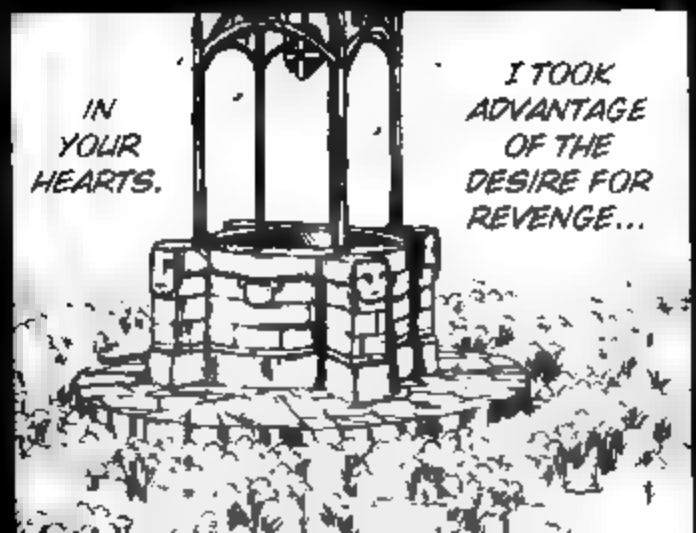
ドゥーン

GUEEHH... Y-YOU GOT ME ...

COM-MITTED... A GRAVE SIN.
AND SO... I...

MING-HAI, BE CAREFUL! HE DIVES INTO THE GROUND AND THEN ATTACKS FROM SOMEWHERE UNEXPECTED!

WHAT THEY DID TO MY SON.
WO-MAN... I'M SOR-RY.
I WILL NEVER FORGET ...

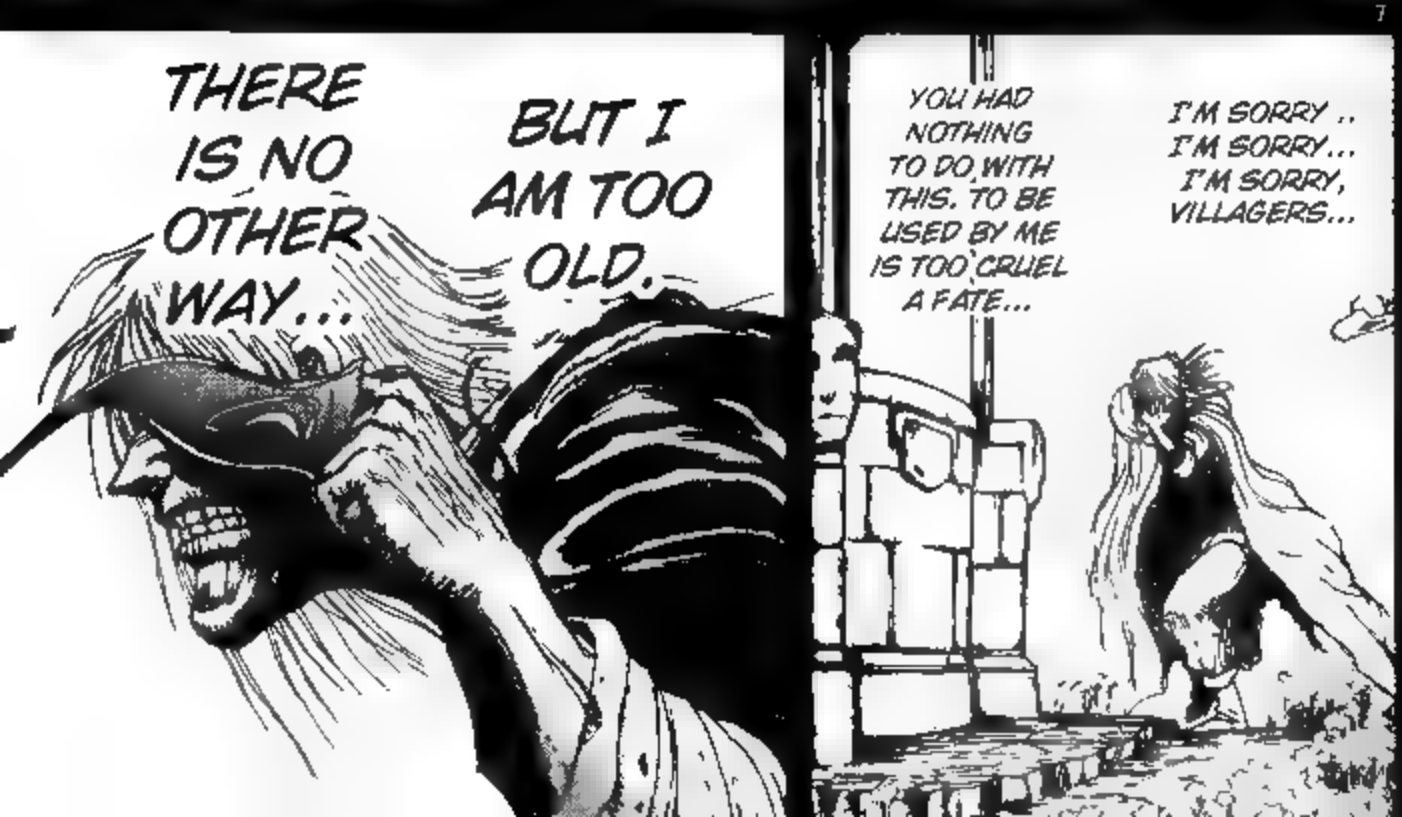

IN YOUR HEARTS.
I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE...

I USED THE POOR SURVIVORS OF KROHG VILLAGE TO CARRY OUT MY RESPONSIBILITY.

WILL BE PRE-SERVED.
A HUMAN MIND DISSOLVED INTO IT...
BESIDES CURING ALL DISEASES THIS WATER HAS ANOTHER POWER
AQUA VITAE.. I HAD CREATED THIS ELIXIR FOR FRANCINE..

AND CONTROL THE HEARTS OF THE VILLAGERS WHO DRANK IT.
I WOULD DISSOLVE INTO IT...

AND ERADICATE THEM FROM THIS WORLD.
AND THEN I WOULD PURSUE THE AUTOMATA JIN HAD BUILT...

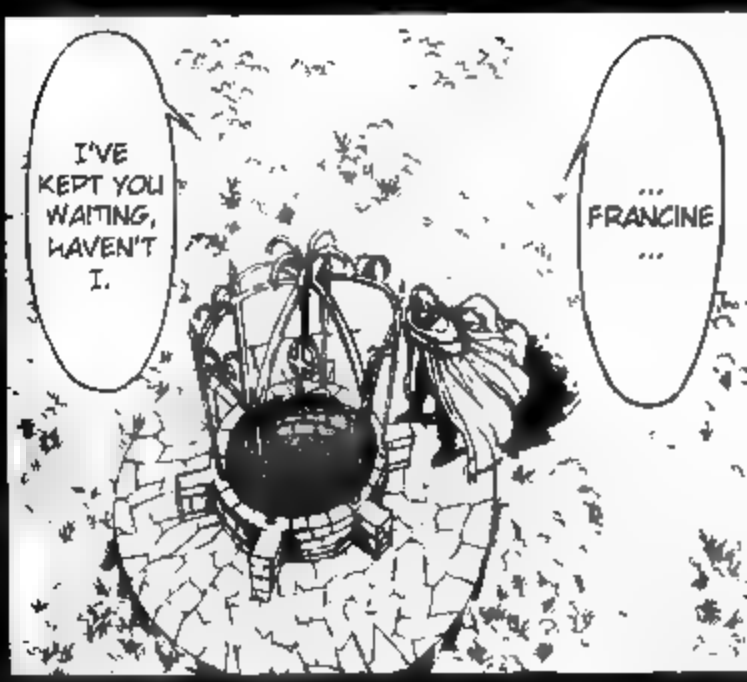

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY...
BUT I AM TOO OLD.
YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS. TO BE USED BY ME IS TOO CRUEL A FATE...
I'M SORRY .. I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY, VILLAGERS...

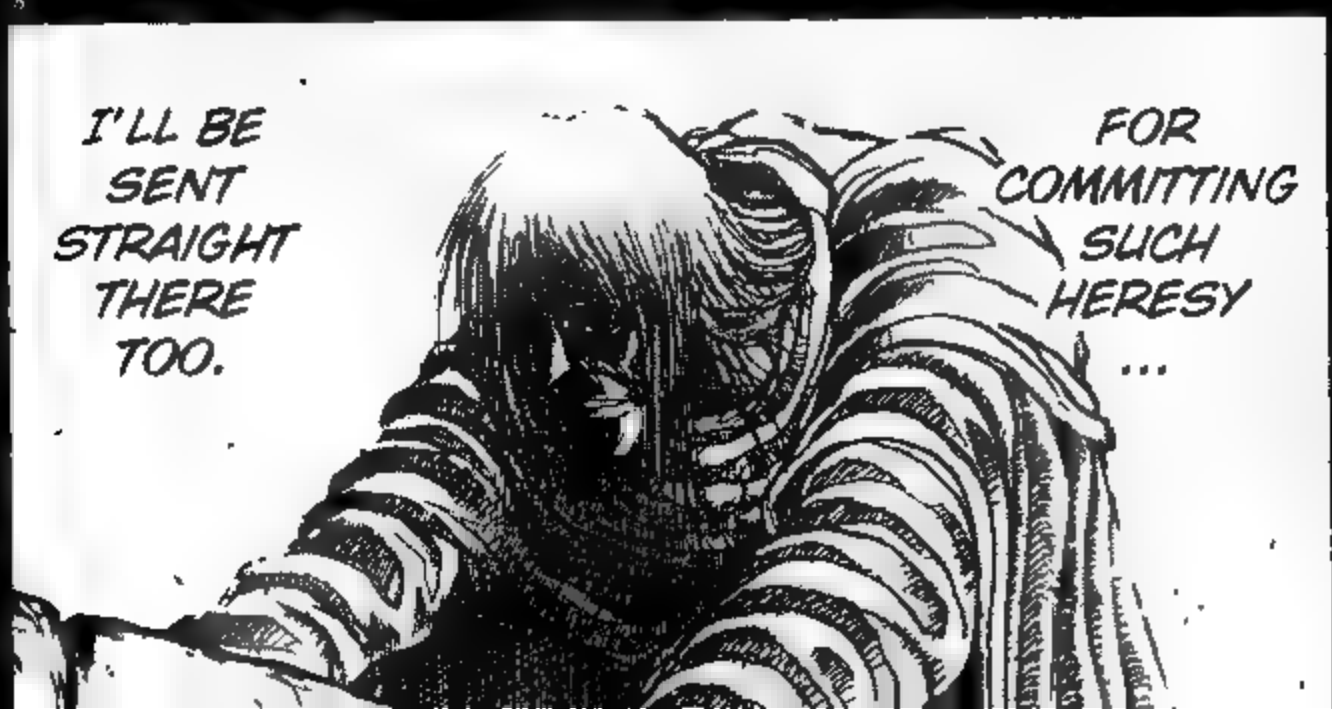
THOSE WHO DIE BY THEIR OWN HANDS.
SINCE THE GOD IN WHOM YOU BELIEVED HATES MOST OF ALL...

YOU COMMITTED THE GREATEST SIN AGAINST HEAVEN, DIDN'T YOU?
FRANCINE...

YOU PROVED YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME ...
AND BY SO DOING ...

IT MUST BE LONELY ALL BY YOURSELF IN HELL.


I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING, HAVEN'T I.
... FRANCINE ...


I'LL BE SENT STRAIGHT THERE TOO.
... FOR COMMITTING SUCH HERESY ...

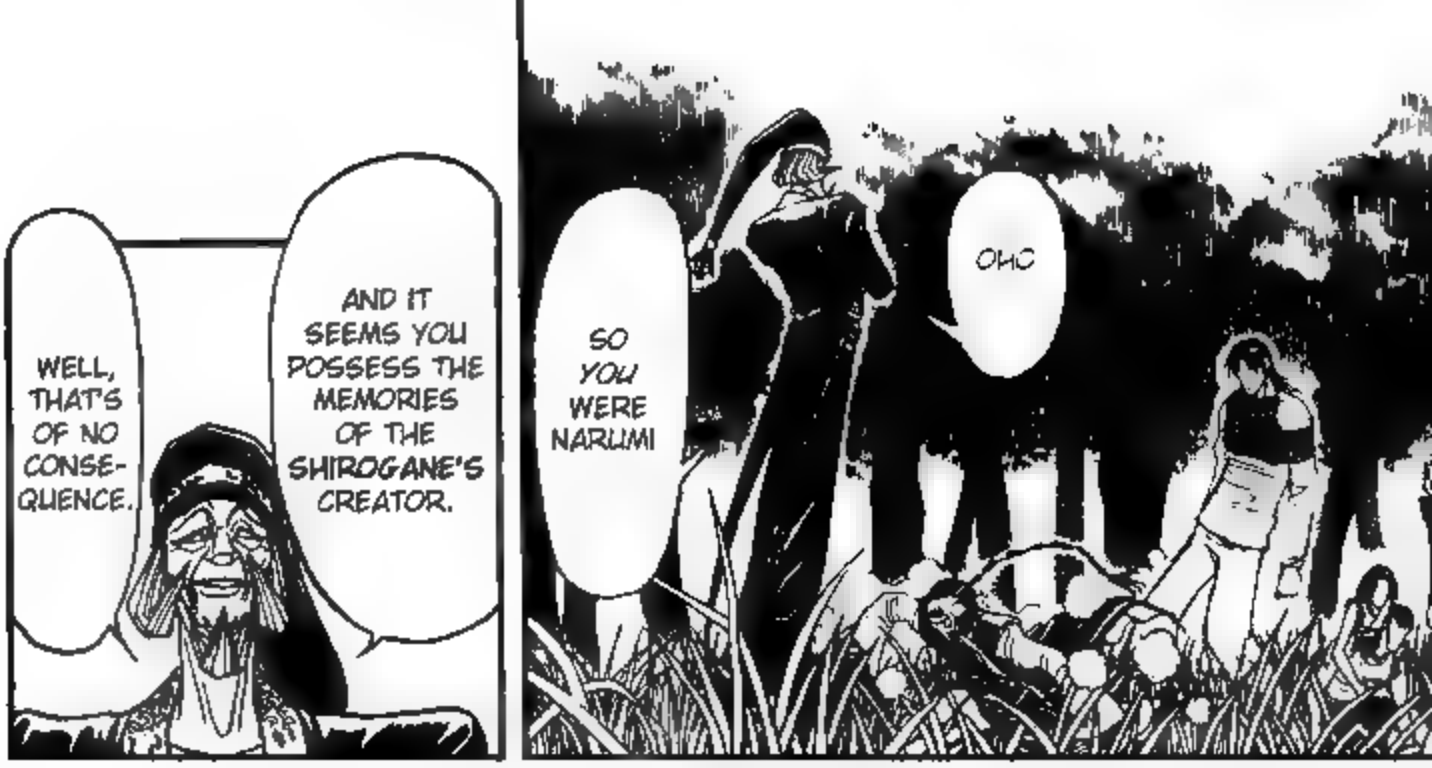
EVEN AFTER MANY DECADES
MANY CEN-TURIES
BUT
HEAVEN WILL NOT FORGIVE US.
'BUT, FRAN-CINE !!...

I LOVED YOU!

FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...

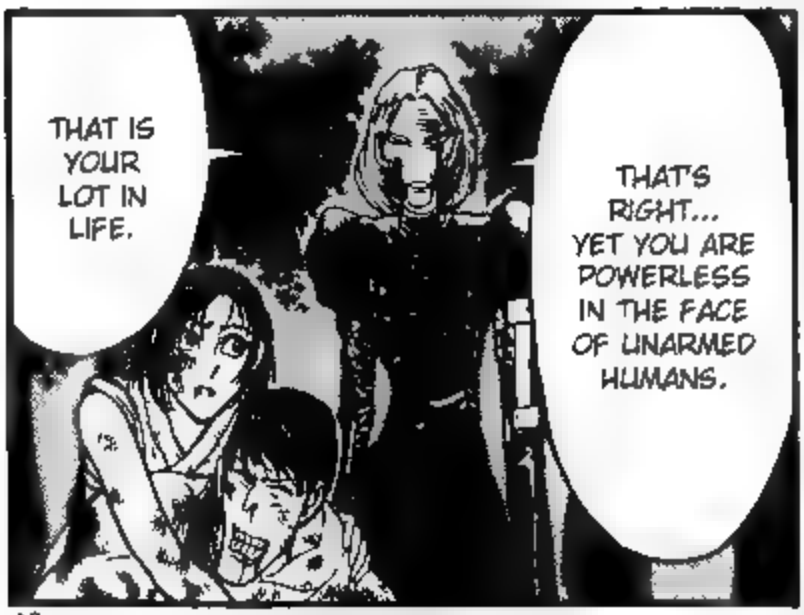
HEE HEE HEE, TAKE THIIIS ...!
MING-HAI!!
...I STOLE THE WOMAN MY BROTHER LOVED, AND CHANGED HIM.
シュウ
I TRACKED HER DOWN, AND DROVE HER TO HER DEATH...
AND... I DRAGGED OTHER PEOPLE INTO A DISPUTE BETWEEN BROTHERS, AND USED THEM...

I WAS ALLOWED ONLY ONE THING
NOR DEATH ...
NEITHER PEACE ...
HEAVEN PERMITS SINNERS NOTHING.
MY HATRED ...
FOR YOU AUTO-MATA.


WELL, THAT'S OF NO CONSE-QUENCE.
AND IT SEEMS YOU POSSESS THE MEMORIES OF THE SHIROGANE'S CREATOR.
SO YOU WERE NARUMI
OHO

IT HAS EVER BEEN THUS... DESPITE OUR PERFECTION, WE HAVE ALWAYS FALLEN BEHIND HUMANS CAPABLE OF FIGHTING WITH THEIR BARE HANDS, OR WITH THE AID OF PUPPETS...

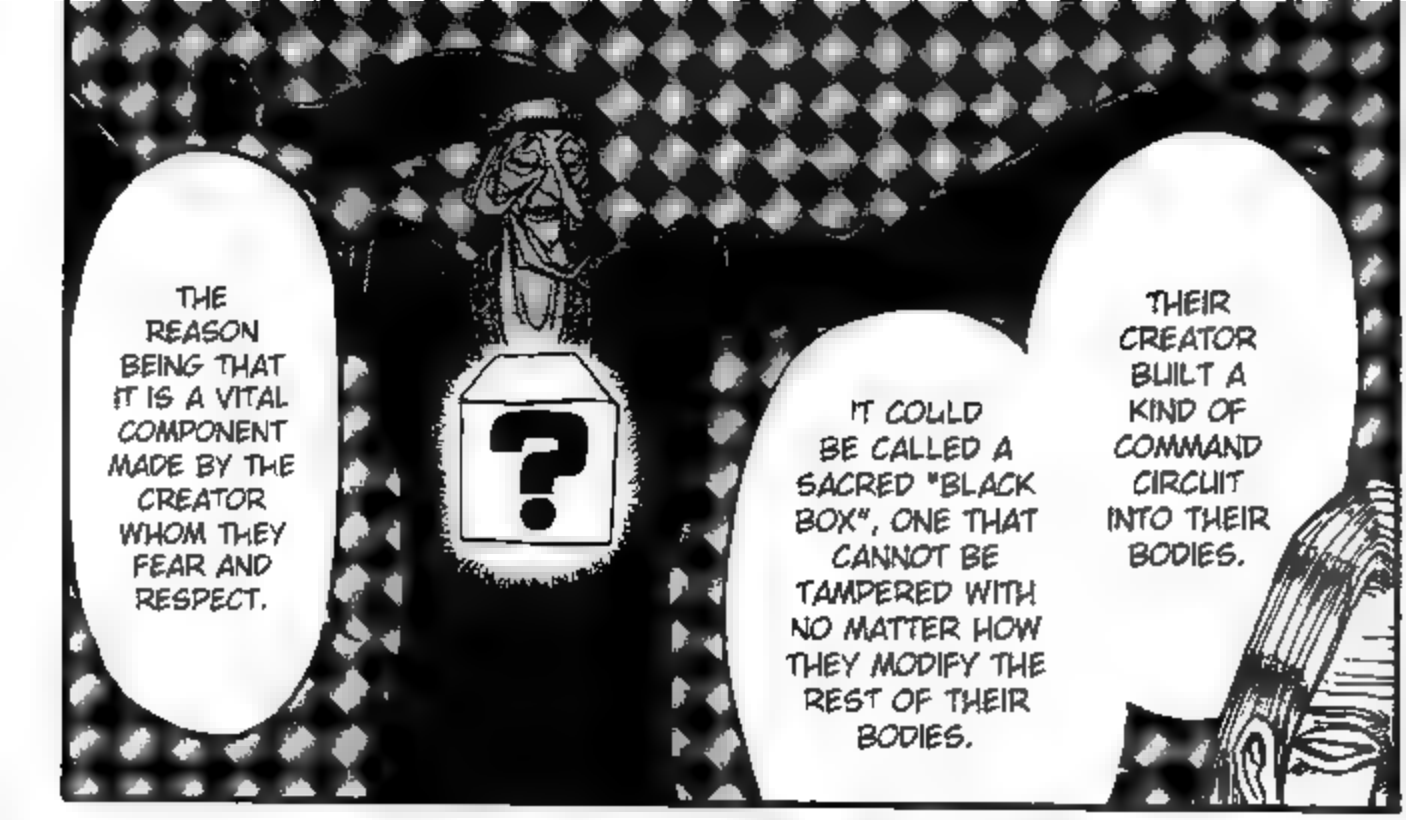
CHINA HOU, YOU ARE TRULY WORTH-LESS
BE THAT AS IT MAY...


THAT IS YOUR LOT IN LIFE.
THAT'S RIGHT... YET YOU ARE POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF UNARMED HUMANS.

12

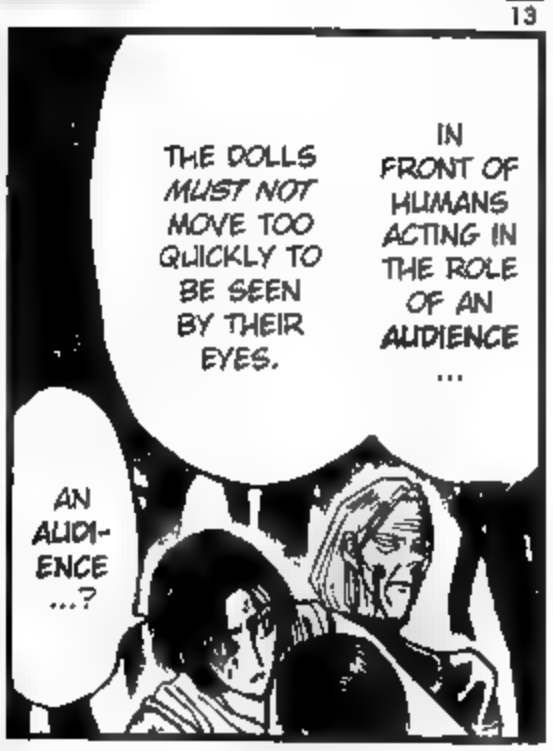
STRICTLY SPEAKING, WE AUTOMATA ARE CAPABLE OF MOVING FASTER THAN THE VERY WIND.

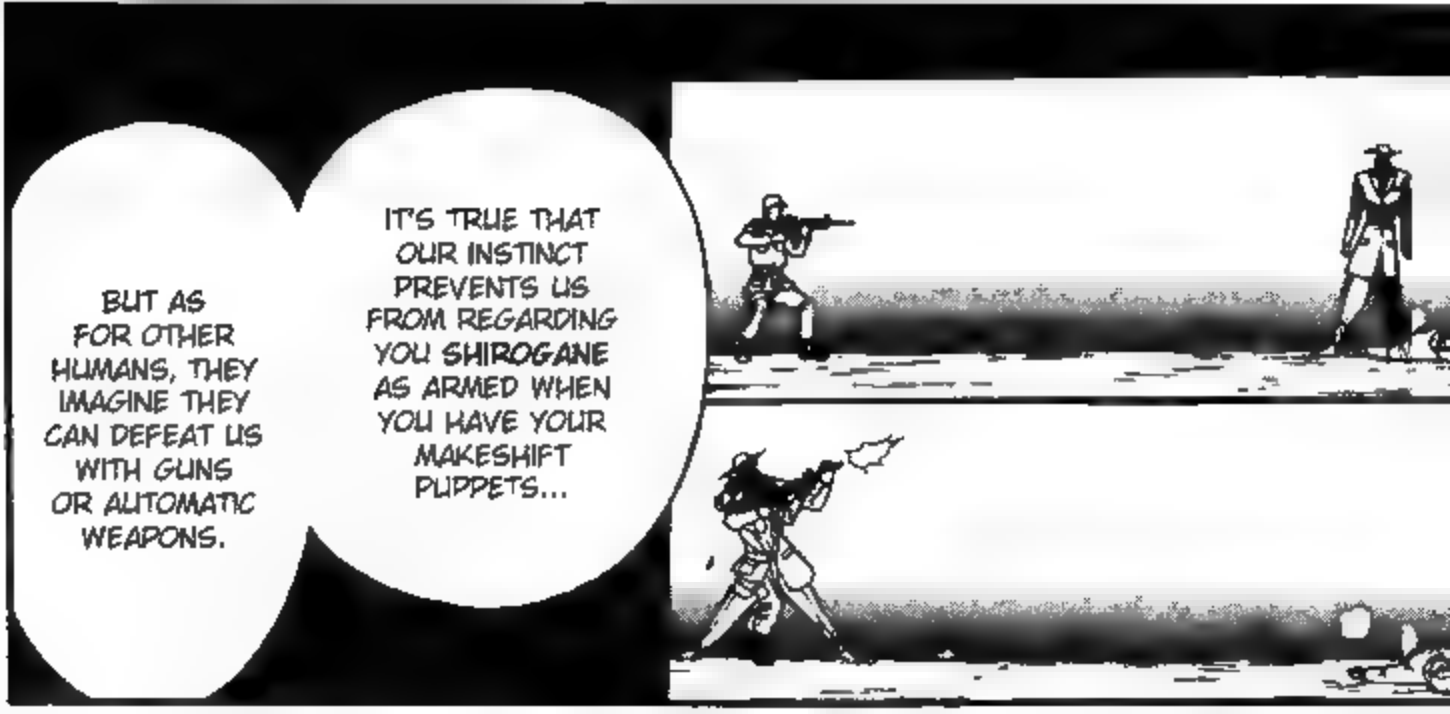
LUCILLE ...
WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?


THE REASON BEING THAT IT IS A VITAL COMPONENT MADE BY THE CREATOR WHOM THEY FEAR AND RESPECT.
?
IT COULD BE CALLED A SACRED "BLACK BOX", ONE THAT CANNOT BE TAMPERED WITH NO MATTER HOW THEY MODIFY THE REST OF THEIR BODIES.
THEIR CREATOR BUILT A KIND OF COMMAND CIRCUIT INTO THEIR BODIES.

"THE AUDIENCE WILL SEE THE APPEARANCE AND ACTIONS OF CLOWNS, AND COME TO FEAR THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME."
IN OTHER WORDS ...
"YOU WERE CREATED TO BRING TERROR TO THE HUMANS OF KROHG VILLAGE IN THE FORM OF CLOWNS."
THIS COMPONENT SAYS...

WE INSTINCTIVELY EVALUATE AS SUCH...
ANYONE WITHOUT MECHANICAL WEAPONS TO ATTACK.
BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER ?


IN FRONT OF HUMANS ACTING IN THE ROLE OF AN AUDIENCE ...
THE DOLLS MUST NOT MOVE TOO QUICKLY TO BE SEEN BY THEIR EYES.
AN AUDIENCE ...?


IT'S TRUE THAT OUR INSTINCT PREVENTS US FROM REGARDING YOU SHIROGANE AS ARMED WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR MAKESHIFT PUPPETS...
BUT AS FOR OTHER HUMANS, THEY IMAGINE THEY CAN DEFEAT US WITH GUNS OR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

HAHAHA! IMPOS-SIBLE!
THE MORE ADVANCED THE WEAPON, THE FASTER WE MOVE. NO HUMAN CAN DEFEAT US.

KUKUKU ... LUCIIILLE ...
UN-FOR-TUN-ATELY FOR YOU ...
THAT SO-CALLED "WEAKNESS" WILL SOON BE NO MORE.

...FOR THE TIME BEING. HOW-EVER ...
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT WEAKNESS, WE'LL FIND OUR CHANCE SOMEDAY.

CAN YOU MOVE?
CHINA HOU, YOU USELESS CREA-TURE.

WHAT?

HUH ?!
D-DAMN... THAT'S WHERE MASTER IS.
IN THAT CASE, GO FOLLOW THE PATH BY WHICH NARUMI DESCENDED.
Y-YES ...! MASTER PANTALONE ...!
Ha-ha-ha!

IT WAS IN THE SHIRT BELONGING TO THAT MAN OVER THERE.
JUST NOW I HAD THE CHANCE TO READ THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, PANTALONE?

15

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. WHAT ON EARTH COULD LET YOU DO THAT?

TO EXPEL THIS WEAKNESS FROM OUR BODIES.
ACCORDING TO THAT, LUCILLE, THERE IS A WAY...

THAT'S... MASTER'S BOOK. WHEN HE READ FROM IT... MING-HAI... STARTED... ACTING STRANGE...

!

THERE'S SOME NEARBY.
AND IT SEEMS ...
AH!
AQUA VITAE.

THIS ...
!
W... WAIT...

SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK!
NARUMI ... NO, MASTER SHIRO-GANE.
...TH-THIS IS...

...THE VILLAGE WHERE I WAS BORN...
IT'S BEEN... FIFTY-TWO YEARS
WELL... THIS IS A FINE PLACE TO DIE...

COME FORTH, AQUA VITAE!
THIS IS A NICE CREVICE. IT'LL DO JUST FINE.
IN THIS WATER THAT MELTS ANYTHING.
WILL DISSOLVE AND DIE ...
EVEN MY IMMORTAL BODY...

HEY... WAIT UP!
WE MUST HURRY
THE AQUA VITAE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT FALL INTO THEIR HANDS.
MASTER SHIROGANE, IF PANTALONE WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

notes. In the previous chapter, Bai Yin mentions asking his brother on a journey to create the Automata. he should instead have said that he lured him down the path of doing so. as he did in this chapter. It's not a huge difference, but I'll try to get a new version of the chapter up soon

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Act 17
Master's
Attacking
Fist

十川

2

AQUA VITAE.

I FOUND IT...!
MAS-TER PANTA-LONEE ...
SILVER WATER SHINING A PALE RED...
HEH HEH HEH ...

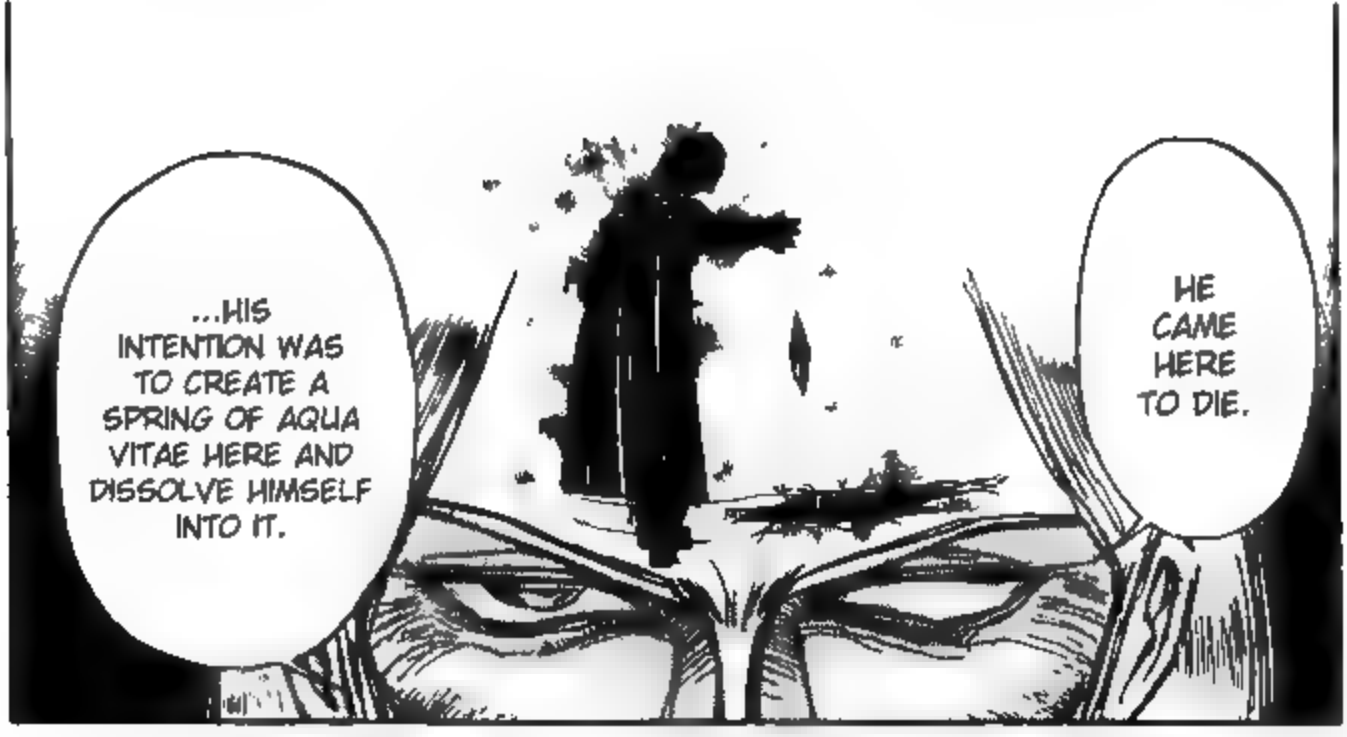
ACC-
ORDING
TO THIS
BOOK...
HAHAHA

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AFTER HE DESTROYED MY VILLAGE, JIN RETURNED HERE, TO THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS BORN.
THE AUTOMATA WERE CREATED BY A MAN NAMED JIN.

3

BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN.
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WAS THINKING! HE WAS INSANE.
HUH?

W-WAIT A SECOND, OLD WOMAN.
WHAT ON EARTH DID HE DO THAT FOR?
THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY REASON FOR HIM TO...


...HIS INTENTION WAS TO CREATE A SPRING OF AQUA VITAE HERE AND DISSOLVE HIMSELF INTO IT.
HE CAME HERE TO DIE.

IT WOULD SEEM SO, ACCORDING TO THE BOOK.

...AND SO THAT'S THE WATERFALL WHERE DAD IS RIGHT NOW?
... REALLY ...?

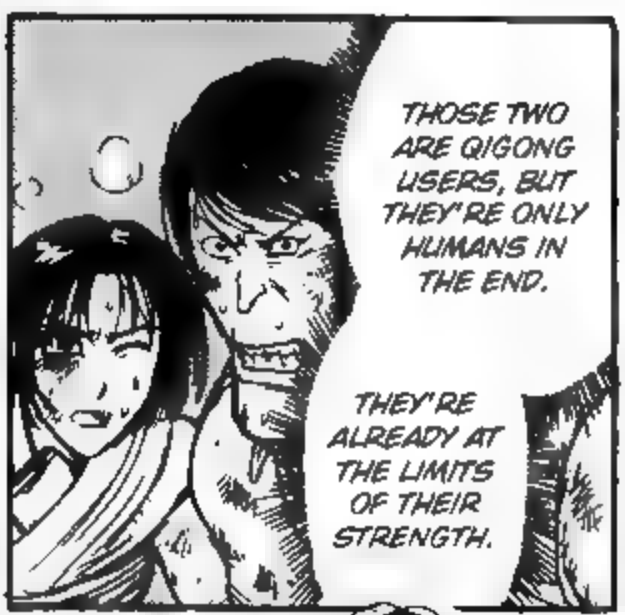
AGAINST UNARMED HUMANS, THEY HAVE ONLY EVER BEEN ABLE TO MOVE AT SPEEDS MATCHING THOSE OF A HUMAN. THAT REQUIREMENT WILL BE OVERTURNED!
THE ONLY WAY FOR THE SHIROGANE TO WIN WILL VANISH COMPLETELY.
THIS IS BAD! IF THE DOLLS DRINK THE AQUA VITAE ...

BUT ...

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, WE MUST STOP PANTALONE AND THE OTHERS FROM DRINKING THE AQUA VITAE!

WILL WE BE ABLE ...
TO STOP THEM ?!

IT HAS TO BE ...


THOSE TWO ARE QIGONG USERS, BUT THEY'RE ONLY HUMANS IN THE END.
THEY'RE ALREADY AT THE LIMITS OF THEIR STRENGTH.

I AM WOUNDED, AND WITHOUT EVEN A PUPPET TO FIGHT WITH.

5

BUT... HOW?!

NARUMI.
WE NEED HIS POWER.

HOW CAN WE AWAKEN THE MAN TRAPPED ...
DEEP WITHIN MASTER SHIRO-GANE'S MEMORIES ?!

DAD!

Y-YEAH... THIS IS WHERE MASTER IS!
YOU SAID... DAD IS AT THE SPRING... AT THE TOP OF THIS SUMMIT, RIGHT?

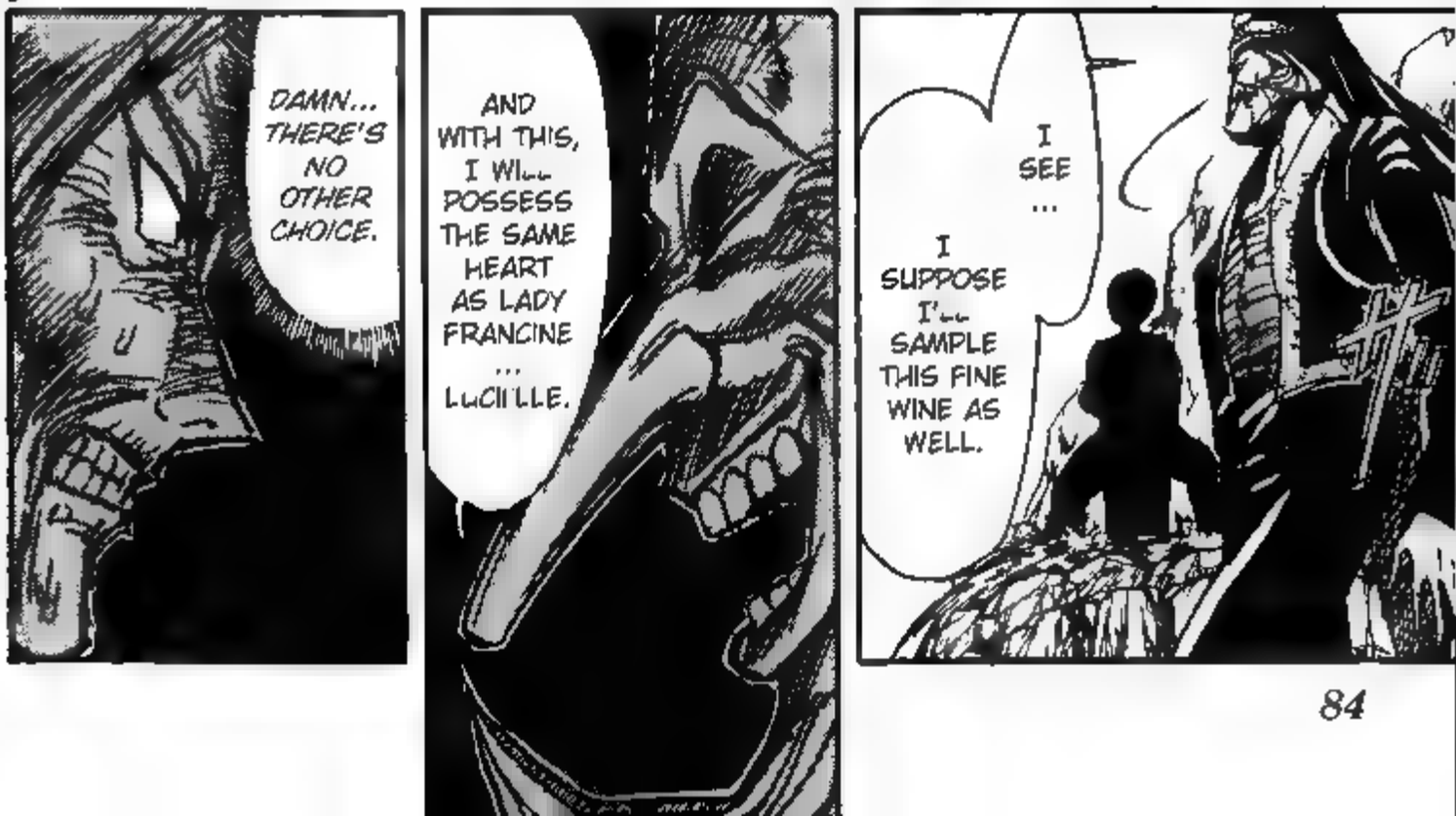
OH, LUCILLE... YOU'RE TOO LATE.

!

BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVED AT THE SPRING, IT WAS TOO LATE...
THE POISON TASTER CHINA HOU...
HAD ALREADY DRUNK PLENTY OF THE AQUA VITAE.
TELL US HOW YOU FEEL.
HAH ...
カキ
HA AAA AH ...
コキ

HA AA AH ...
I FEEL JUUUST GREAT ...!
はあああ
WE WERE TOO LATE ...
DAD... ISN'T HERE...

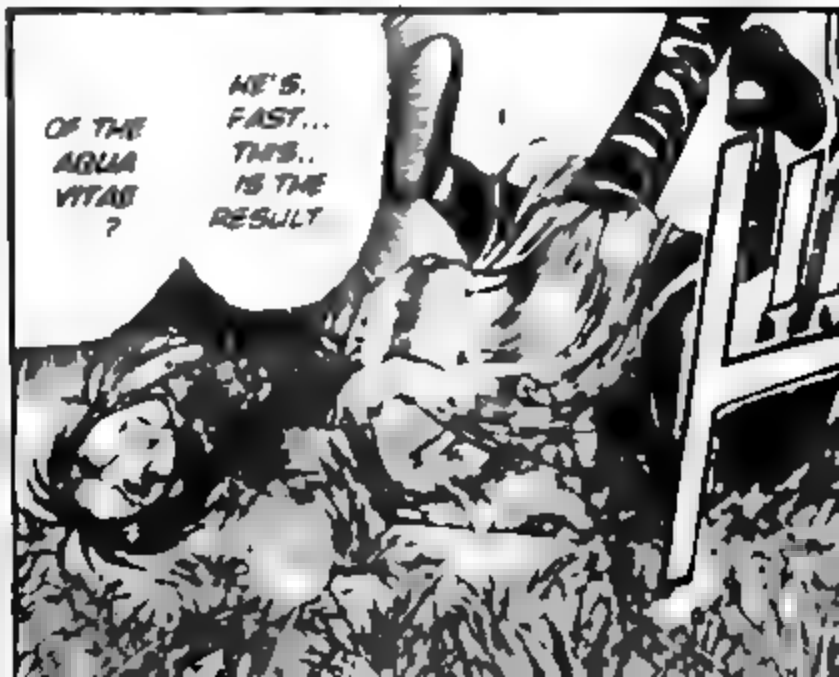
3

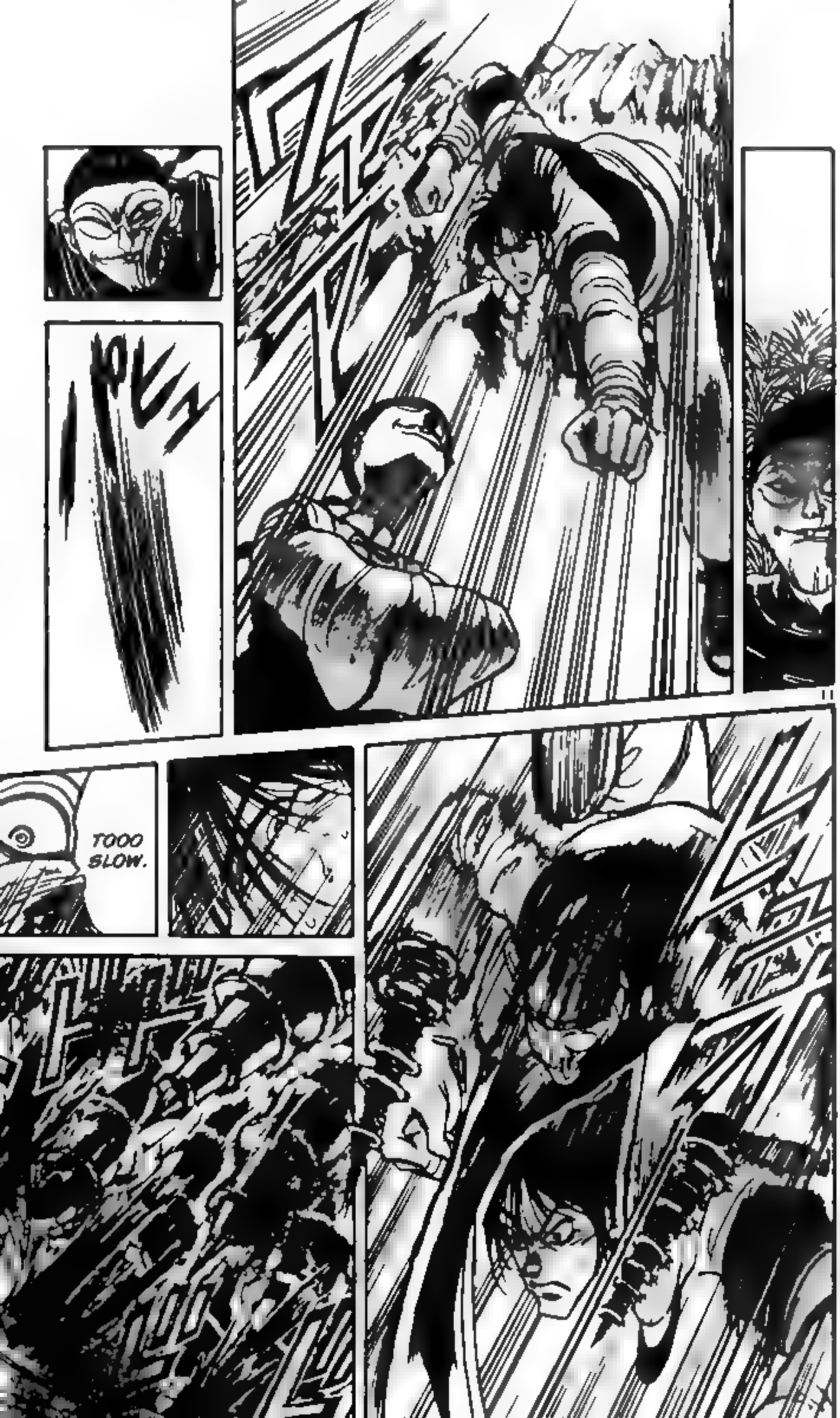

DAMN... THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE.
AND WITH THIS, I WILL POSSESS THE SAME HEART AS LADY FRANCINE ... LUCILLE.
I SEE ... I SUPPOSE I'LL SAMPLE THIS FINE WINE AS WELL.

WHERE'S MASTER ?!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY DAD ?!
THAT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN, PANTALONE !
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS SUPREME LIQUOR DEMANDS TO BE TASTED IN SILENCE.
BE QUIET.
9

10

EVEN A SHIRO-GANE. CAN'T BEAT HIM!!


HE'S. FAST... THIS.. IS THE RESULT
OF THE AQUA VITAE ?

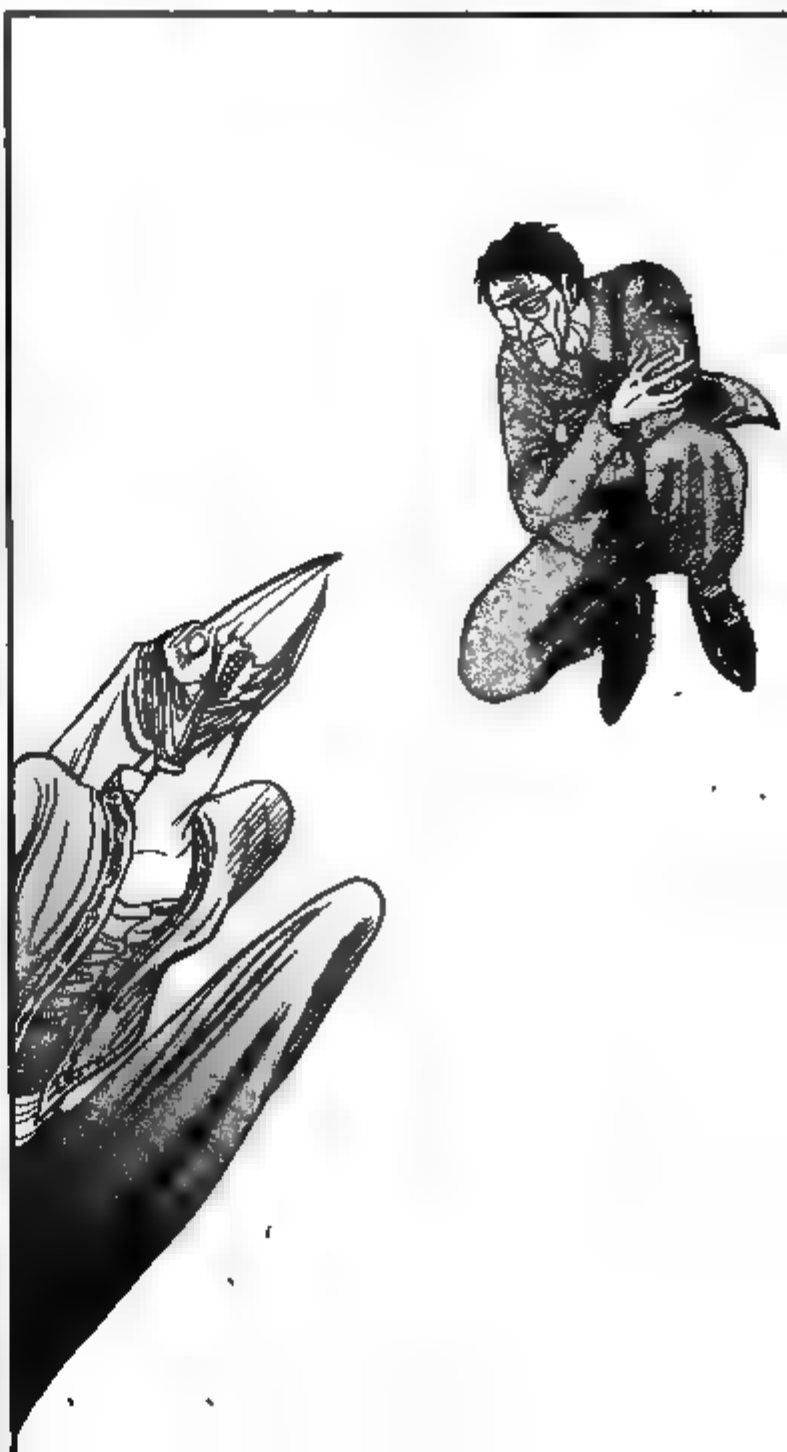

パシィ
TOOO SLOW.

GUOOOH!
DAMN... MY BODY WON'T ...
... DAD ...
MI... MING-HAI...
IT'S NO GOOD.
... STOP ...
HA HA HA HA! WELL DONE, CHINA HOU. WELL DONE INDEED.
NOW I CAN SAVOR THIS AT MY LEISURE.
NO!
NOW ...

I FORBID YOU TO DRINK THAT...
DOLL.

AND WHO ARE YOU?
I AM THE TEACHER OF THOSE INCOM-PETENT STUDENTS WHO WERE DEFEATED JUST NOW BY A DOLL.
ゴゴゴ

DAMN YOU!
AM I BEING INSULTED BY A PIECE OF WOOD DRESSED N OLD RAGS?
FOOL! HOW DO YOU PLAN TO STOP ME? YOU ARE A MERE HUMAN, AND A DECREPIT OLD MAN BESIDES.



POS SIB LE ...
I- IM...

YOU MAY NOT BE HUMAN, BUT IT SEEMS YOUR TWO FEET STILL SEEK THE GROUND.

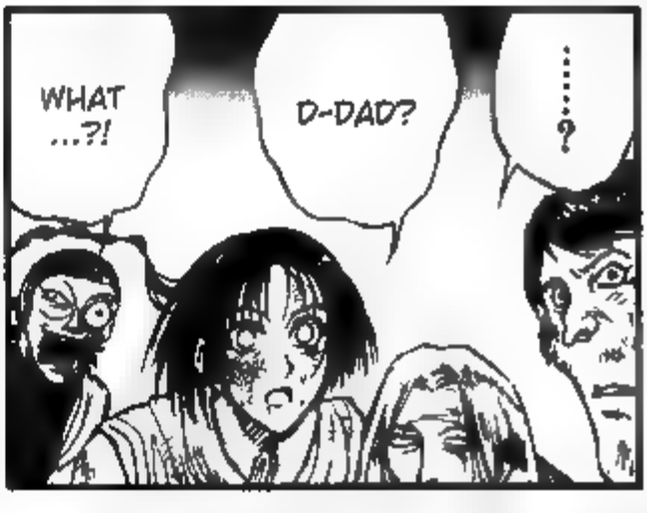
...M-MASTER PANTA-LONEEE ...!

D-DAD!!
M-MASTER !
... THAT WAS A SUR-PRISE.

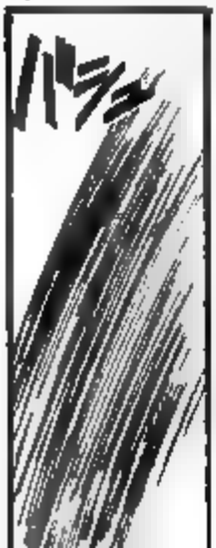
THAT WAS A PRETTY SHAMEFUL DISPLAY ON YOUR PARTS
BUT... ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

STAND UP!
ESPECIALLY YOURS, MING-HAI.

LOOK OVER HERE...! I'LL KILL THE LIKES OF YOU IN NO TIME...!!


WHAT ...?!
D-DAD?
.....?

WHAT VISIONS HAVE MADE YOU FORGET YOUR KENPO TRAINING?

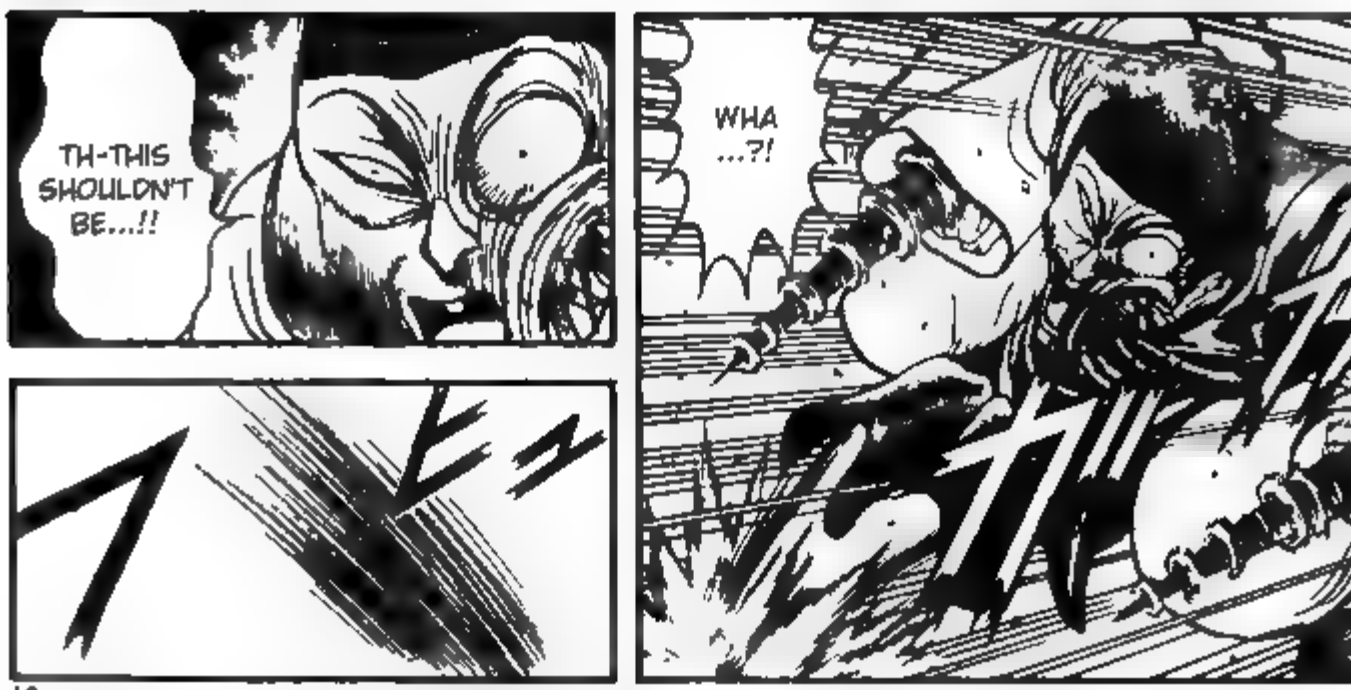

バラッ

EE EE EE ...!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

NO MATTER HOW VIVID THIS OTHER PERSON'S MEMORY MAY BE, YOU CANNOT LET IT RULE YOU.
WHY HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO YOU ARE?

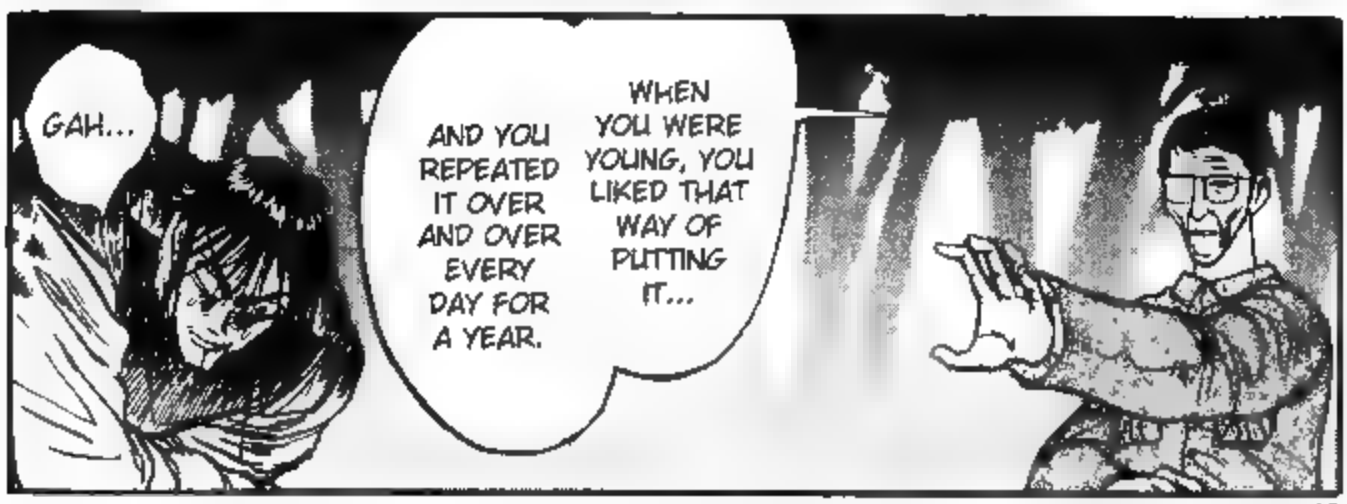
HE... HE VANISHED!
DAD LOOK OUT

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT? FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE SAN TI SHI, THE FIRST OF THE BASIC FIVE FISTS...
THE SPLIT-TING FIST.
...!!
.....!

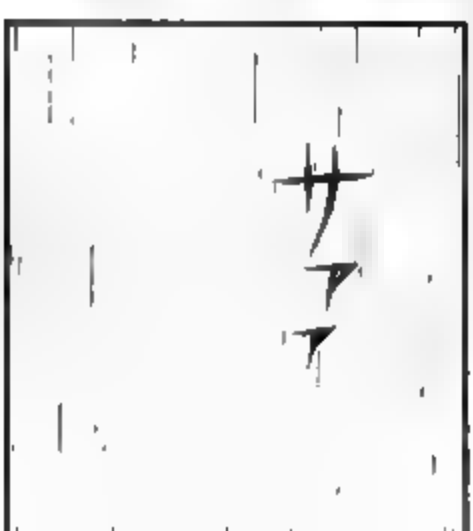

TH-THIS SHOULDN'T BE...!!
WHA ...?!

IT TOOK YOU FIVE YEARS TO LEARN THOSE TWO.
THEN THE DRILLING FIST.

IF YOU LET YOUR HAND GLIDE ALONG IT, IT IS SURE TO STRIKE THE ENEMY
FOR THE SPLITTING FIST, THE ARM EXTENDED TOWARDS THE ENEMY IS LIKE A LAUNCHING PAD FOR A MISSILE.
WHY... WHY CAN'T I HIT HIM?!


GAH...
AND YOU REPEATED IT OVER AND OVER EVERY DAY FOR A YEAR.
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, YOU LIKED THAT WAY OF PUTTING IT...

... EVEN ON RAINY DAYS ...
ぱしゃん



TOGE-
THER
...
ぱしゃん
ぱしゃん
HANDS
AND
ARMS
...

TOGE-
THER
...
HANDS
AND
ARMS
...

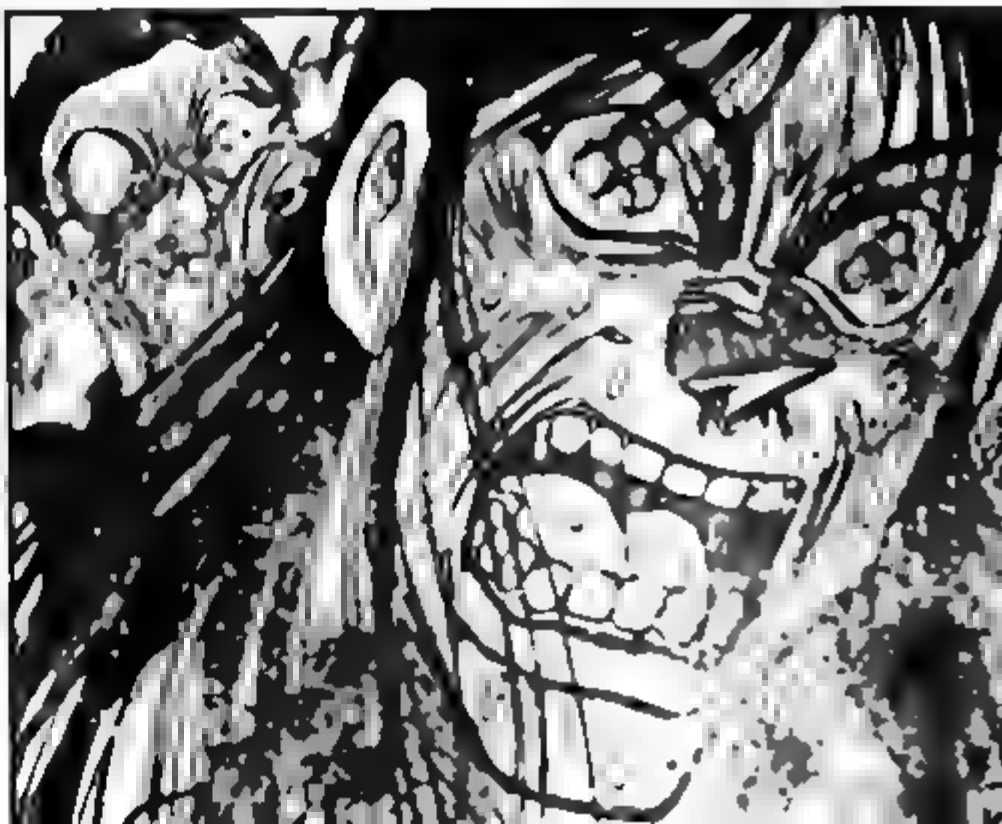
BUT
IT WAS
COLD
...
I WAS,
...
TOTALLY
ABSORBED
...

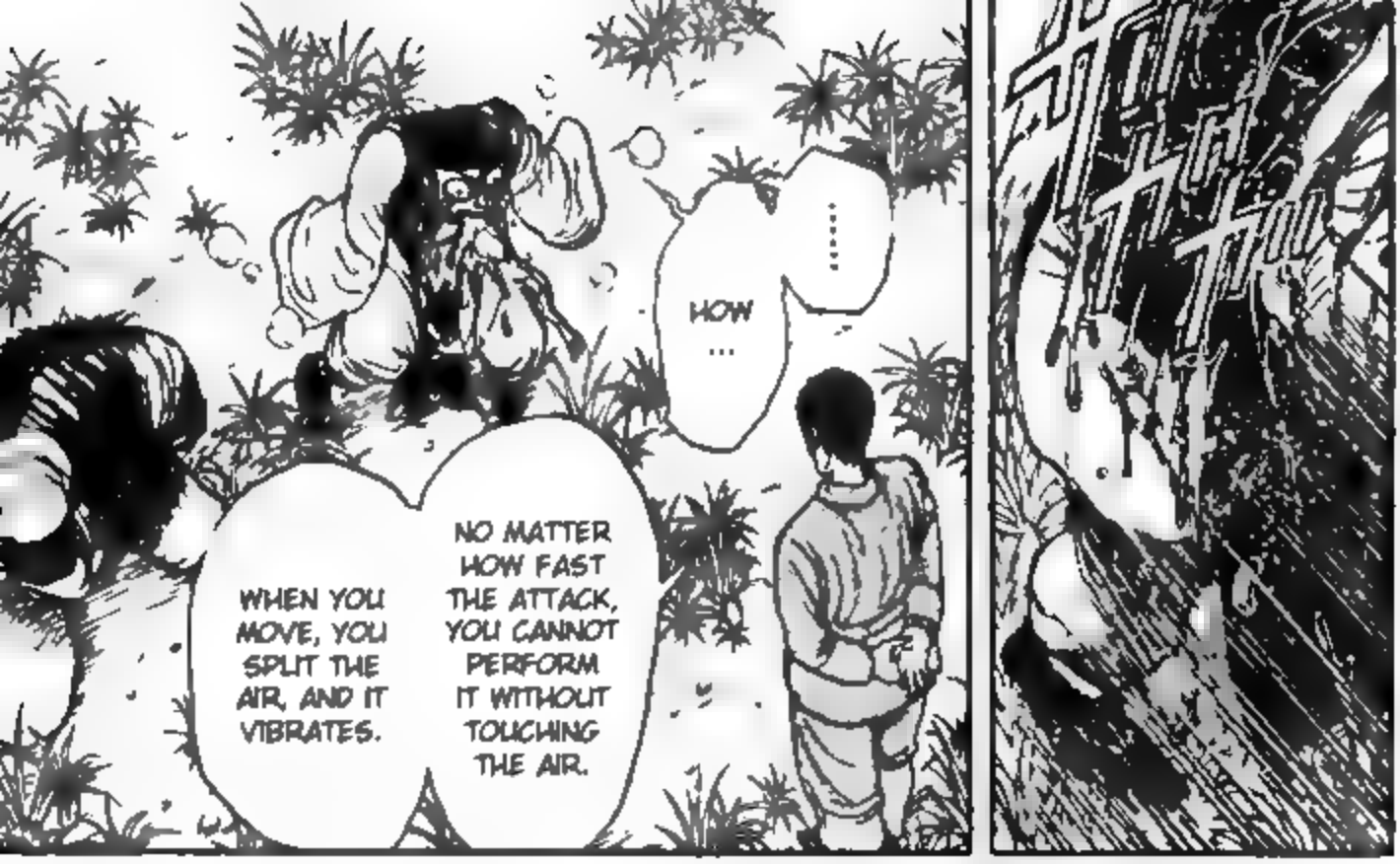
...
THAT'S
RIGHT,
I
REMEM-
BER
THIS
...
PUT A
BUNDLE OF
MAGAZINES
IN FRONT
OF YOUR
BELLY
LIKE THAT

TODAY
YOU WILL
EXPERIENCE
THE
CRUSHING
FIST
WHO'S
THAT
...?
MING-
HAI.

THAT YOU
WILL INFLICT
ON YOUR
OPPONENTS
IN THE
FUTURE.
YOU MUST
EXPERIENCE
FOR
YOURSELF
THE PAIN.
WHEN
YOU ARE
LEARNING
A TECH-
NIQUE...

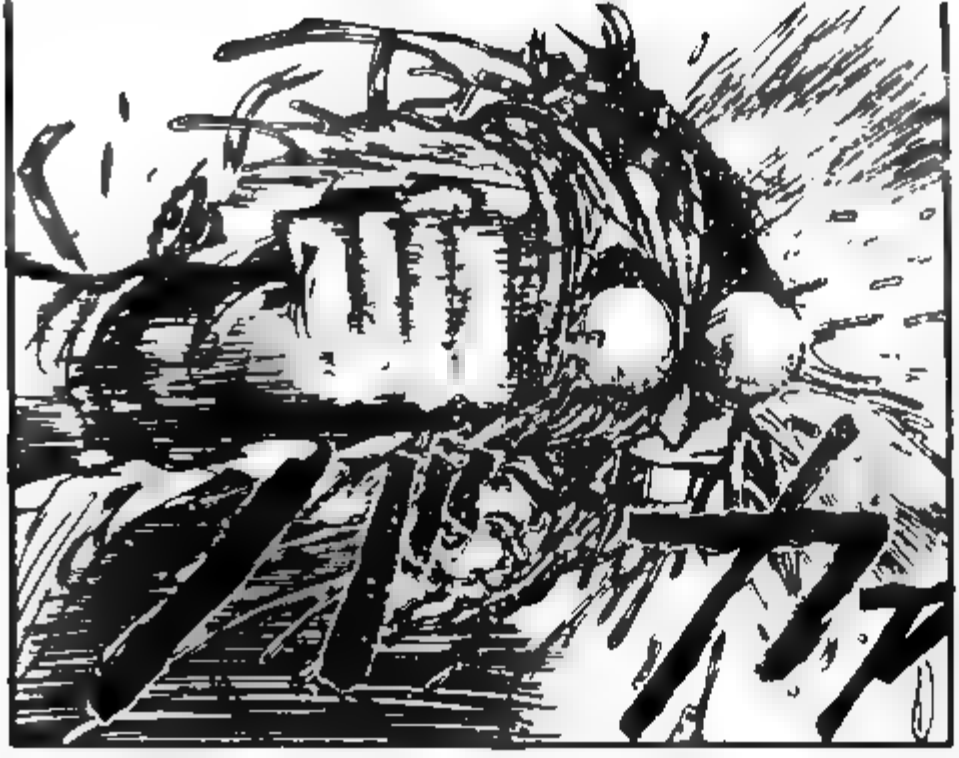
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KILL A SINGLE OLD HUMAAAN ...!
I DRANK THE AQUA VITAE...! I CAN MOVE AT MY TOP SPEED...!
I... SHOULD BE ABLE TO HIT HIM...
ガリ
REMEMBER THIS PAIN!
DAD CAN'T FIGHT BACK WITH MING-HAI IN THE WAY.
HE'S ATTACKING AGAIN! THIS TIME HE'S COMING FROM MING-HAI'S BACK!
MING-HAI, ONLY YOU KNOW THE PAIN YOUR BODY FELT THEN.
DAD ...!




HOW ...
.....
NO MATTER HOW FAST THE ATTACK, YOU CANNOT PERFORM IT WITHOUT TOUCHING THE AIR.
WHEN YOU MOVE, YOU SPLIT THE AIR, AND IT VIBRATES.

HOW DOES IT FEEL, MING-HAI? IT'S A PAIN SO GREAT IT'S AS IF YOUR FLESH AND BONE ARE COMING APART. THIS IS THE CRUSHING FIST THAT SHATTERS A HUMAN FROM WITHIN.
OVER MANY HUN-DREDS OF YEARS.
CHINESE KENPO HAS DEVELOPED WAYS TO LISTEN FOR THAT...

IT HURTS ... MASTER ...
IT HURTS ...
THAT ONLY I KNOW ...
MY BODY REMEM-BERS THIS PAIN ...



MING-HAI.
YOU'RE LATE...

MAS-TER LIANG.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

Notes:

The title of this chapter is 師父撃拳, read as *Shifu Gekiken*. 師父 has always been used as Master Liáng's title, but the furigana usually read "sensei". Here, the Chinese reading, Shīfu, is given. Attacking Fist is a rough translation of *gekiken*, which appears as part of some fictional fighting styles but is not technically a word as far as I could find.

pg. 08: The word Pantalone uses for "heart" 御心 (*mikokoro*) is a respectful word that can also refer to God's spirit or the Lord's will in Christianity.

pg. 18: The Sān tǐ shì (三體勢) is the basic fighting stance used in the Xíng Yì Quán (形意拳) martial arts style. The three techniques we see in this chapter are the Pī quán (劈拳, Chopping or Splitting Fist), the Zuān quán (鑽拳, Drilling Fist), and the Bēng quán (崩拳, Crushing or Smashing Fist). Ming-Xia also used the Crushing Fist back in chapter 136.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

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Act 18
Temporary Closing

I'M PAST MY PRIME...
ぜひ
ぜひ
ぜひ

NO... NO, THAT'S NOT...
WHEN I RAISED MY HAND, IT WAS USUALLY TO SCOLD YOU WITH A BLOW ...

D-DAD ...

I GUARD OUR STYLE OF KENPO, ALONG WITH CENTURIES OF CHINESE HISTORY... I COULD NOT HELP BEING THAT KIND OF FATHER.
FORGIVE ME, MING-XIA.

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDENESS IN REMAINING SEATED.
I THANK YOU... I AM CALLED LIANG JIANG-FENG.

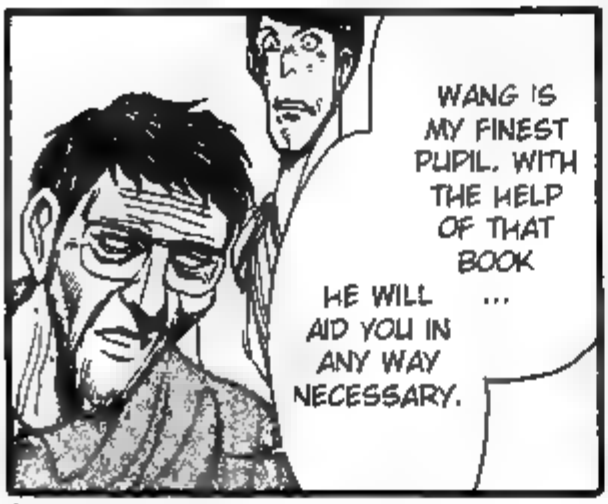
I MUST COMMEND YOUR PROFOUND MASTERY OF YOUR ART.

YEAH!
MASTER, YOU BEAT THOSE DOLL MONSTERS SO EASILY!
YES, IT WAS AMA-ZING!

DON'T YOU THINK SO, LUCILLE? IF MASTER JOINED FORCES WITH THE SHIROGANE ...

THAT REALLY WAS AWESOME! IF MASTER WAS WITH US, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE AUTOMATA AT ALL!

MY NAME IS LUCILLE VERNEUIL. SOME-DAY... WE MUST GET TOGETHER FOR TEA.
THAT WOULD BE NICE ...


WANG IS MY FINEST PUPIL. WITH THE HELP OF THAT BOOK ... HE WILL AID YOU IN ANY WAY NECESSARY.

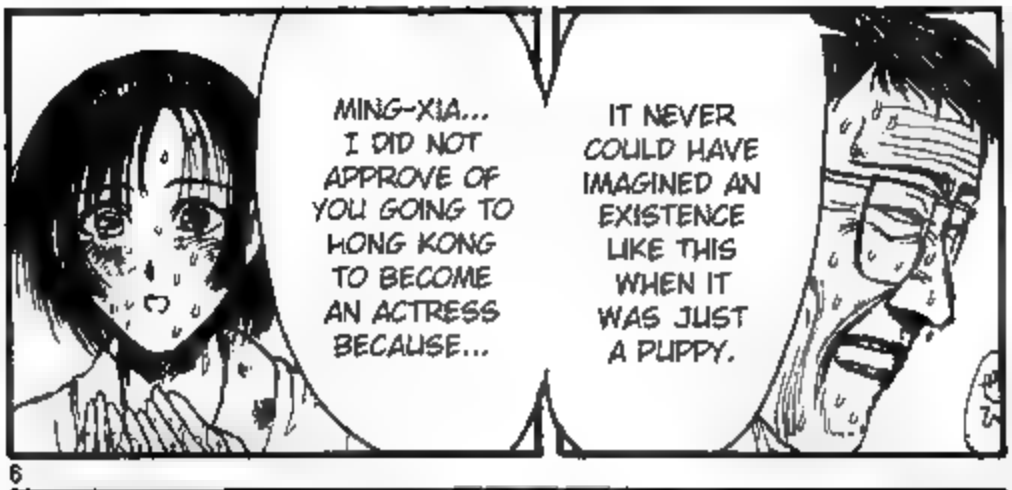
H-HEY, LUCILLE!
WELL THEN .

MAS-TER ...

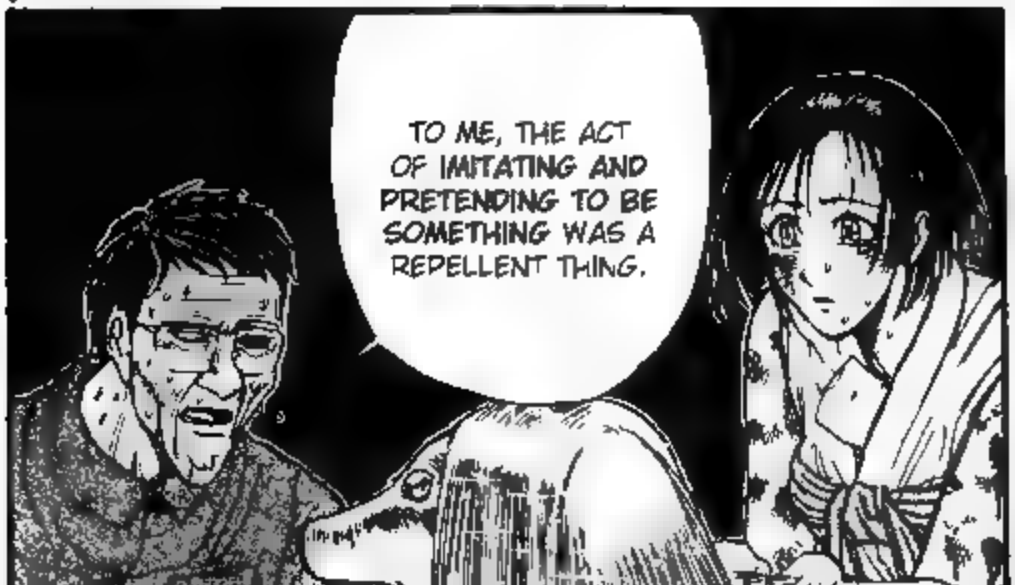
HE IS NOT WILLING TO LIVE A FALSE LIFE.
HUH?
IT'S NO USE.
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?! IF WE CAN GET MASTER TO COME WITH US...
5
MASTER, IF YOU DRINK THIS WATER, YOUR ZONAPHA SYNDROME WILL BE HEALED!!
DAD, DRINK THIS WATER!

THAT DOG

SLURP
WHAT ?!
THIS DOG... DRANK THAT WATER LONG, LONG AGO.

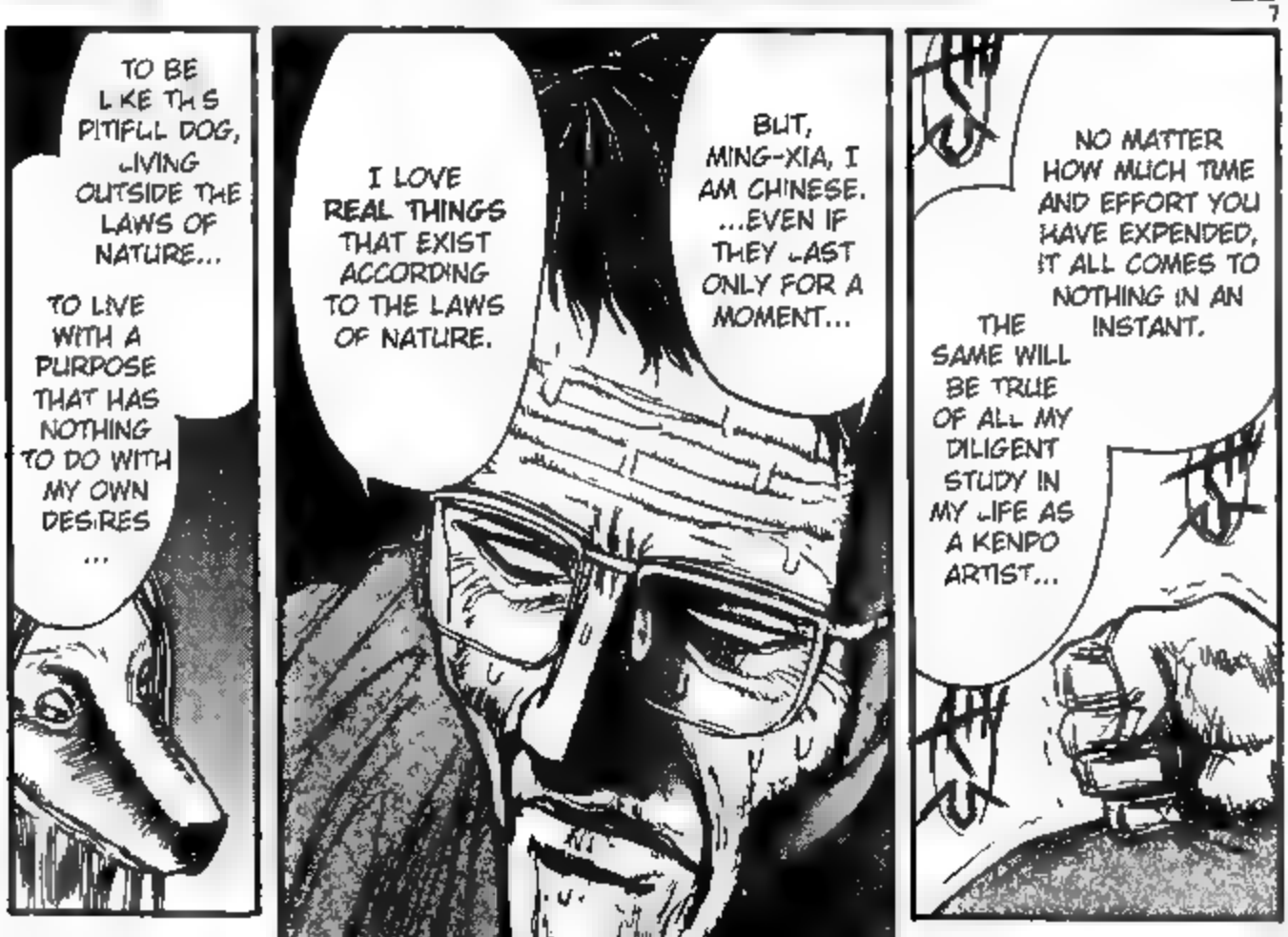

MING-XIA... I DID NOT APPROVE OF YOU GOING TO HONG KONG TO BECOME AN ACTRESS BECAUSE...
IT NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED AN EXISTENCE LIKE THIS WHEN IT WAS JUST A PUPPY.

SINCE THEN, IT HAS PROTECTED THIS SPRING FROM HUMANS SEEKING TO APPROACH IT...
PROB-ABLY IT HAS BEEN WOUNDED LIKE THIS MANY TIMES.


TO ME, THE ACT OF IMITATING AND PRETENDING TO BE SOMETHING WAS A REPELLENT THING.

FOR YOU TO HAVE LEARNED REAL MARTIAL ARTS, AND EARN YOUR LIVING IMITATING THEM, ALWAYS DRIFTING TO SOME NEW PLACE...
.....
AND ACTING, ON TOP OF THAT, IS A JOB IN WHICH ONE ACTS OUT A SUCCESSION OF DIFFERENT LIVES.
WHILE THEY ARE THERE, THEY SEIZE HOLD OF AS MANY MATERIAL THINGS AS THEY CAN, AND THEN PREPARE TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PLACE...
PEOPLE GO TO LARGE CITIES LIKE HONG KONG TO SEEK AN EASY WAY OF LIFE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, A GENUINE LIFE IS A SHORT ONE.
I... I...
I COULD NEVER APPROVE OF YOUR WAY OF LIFE.
TRAVELING TO TEMPORARY PLACES ... AND LIVING A TEMPORARY LIFE...

7


TO BE LIKE THIS PITIFUL DOG, LIVING OUTSIDE THE LAWS OF NATURE...
TO LIVE WITH A PURPOSE THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY OWN DESIRES ...
I LOVE REAL THINGS THAT EXIST ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF NATURE.
BUT, MING-XIA, I AM CHINESE. ...EVEN IF THEY LAST ONLY FOR A MOMENT...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME AND EFFORT YOU HAVE EXPENDED, IT ALL COMES TO NOTHING IN AN INSTANT.
THE SAME WILL BE TRUE OF ALL MY DILIGENT STUDY IN MY LIFE AS A KENPO ARTIST...

I DO NOT WANT A FALSE ETERNAL LIFE SUCH AS THAT.

M-MASTER... THERE'S STILL SO MUCH WE ALL WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU ...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE...
I... WANT YOU TO LIVE...
D-DAD ...
BUT, I...

DAD... WE SHOULD HAVE TALKED WITH EACH OTHER MORE ...!
NOT EVEN HIS OWN DAUGHTER ...
NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THE LIFE THAT PERSON HAS CHOSEN...
BUT... A PERSON'S LIFE BELONGS TO THEM ALONE.

ピ

AH-
HAG-
TER?
DAD
WHA-
?

THAT'S
THAT
WAAGHH
!!
10
PANTA-
LONE!

THE DAUGHTER INSULTS THE CLOTHING I WAS GIVEN BY LADY FRANCINE...
AND THE FATHER HEAPS CONTEMPT UPON MY BODY, WHICH SHE PERFECTED WITH HER OWN HANDS!
IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNPARDON-ABLE!
UNFOR-GIVABLE!

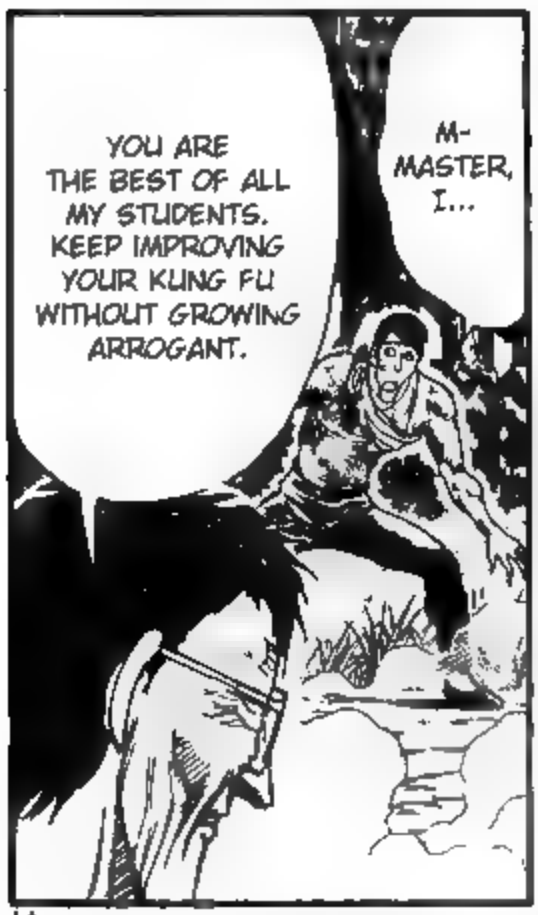
MISS MING-XIA!!
EEK!

HE MADE A BALL OUT OF THE ROCK?!
IT'S HIS SIGNATURE MOVE. EVEN OUR MARIO-NETTES CAN'T STAND UP TO IT!

I'LL START WITH YOU, LITTLE GIRL! I'LL FLATTEN YOU TO THE GROUND!
UGH ...!
THEN I'LL CRUSH YOUR FATHER AND DRINK THE AQUA VITAE ON TOP OF HIS CORPSE...!
WAIT JUST A MOMENT, YOU RIDICULOUS WOODEN TOY.
WHAT WAS THAAAT ?!

DIDN'T I SAY YOU WERE NOT TO DRINK FROM THIS SPRING?
DYNAMITE.
IT SEEMS YOU DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE TELL YOU, DOLL.
THAT'S ...!
13
I GUARANTEE I CAN PUSH THIS BUTTON FASTER THAN YOU CAN MOVE, PANTALONE.
I'VE PLANTED EXPLOSIVES THROUGH-OUT THE AREA.
DAD!!
M-MAS-TER!

WELL, I AM FOND OF FIRE-WORKS...
DAMN YOU ...!
IF YOU DO THAT THE SPRING WILL BE—


YOU ARE THE BEST OF ALL MY STUDENTS. KEEP IMPROVING YOUR KUNG FU WITHOUT GROWING ARROGANT.
M-MASTER, I...

WANG, I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.

14

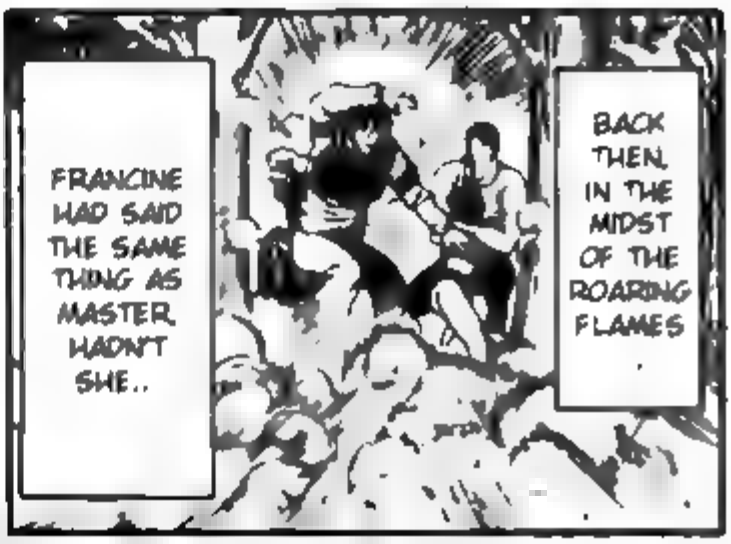
DON'T DO IT, DAD! DAD!!
MASTER, COME OVER HERE! DON'T DO ANYTHING HASTY!

MAS-TER ...!

I HAVE CHOSEN THE WAY I WILL DIE.
EVERY-ONE'S BEING SO NOISY ...
GRRAHH!
NO! LET ME GO, WANG!
MISS MING-XIA, YOU CAN'T!
NOOO! DAAAD!
FORGIVE ME, MING-XIA ...
IN THE END... I NEVER DID PAT YOUR HEAD...

I LIVED A GENUINE LIFE...
I HAVE NO REGRETS.

DAMN
IIIIT!



A NEW BEGINNING IN MY PURSUIT OF THE AUTOMATA

からくりサーカス

AND THAT END ALSO MARKED

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

This worked out perfectly as a place to stop for the holidays! I'll be traveling, so the next chapter will be on **January 11th** There'll be a few intermission chapters. and then the start of a new arc!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text. and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

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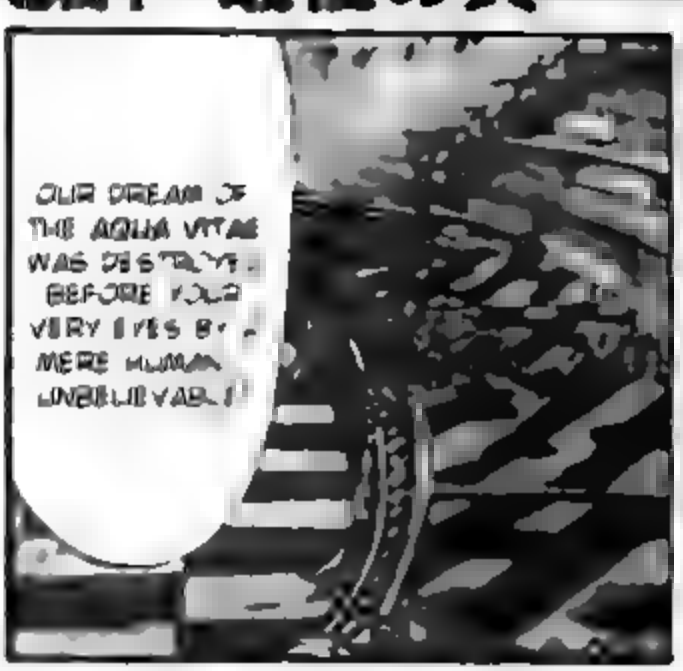
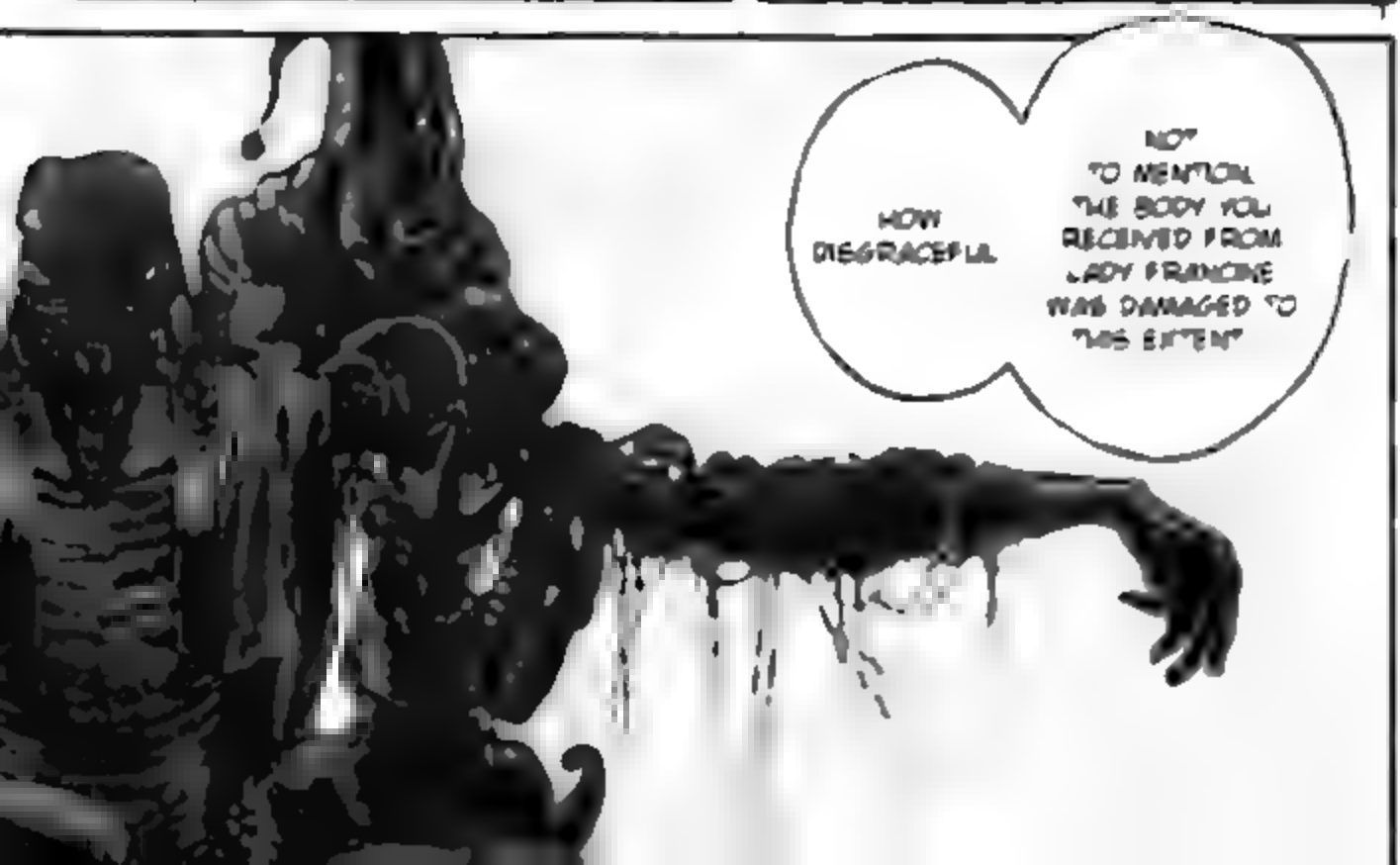
Intermission I~
The Last Page
幕間I～最後の頁


OUR DREAM OF THE AQUA VITAE WAS DESTROYED BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES BY A MERE HUMAN UNBELIEVABLE!

HMMPH WITH AN ALCHEMIST WHO WAS A LOSER MASTER


HOW DISGRACEFUL
NOT TO MENTION THE BODY YOU RECEIVED FROM LADY FRANCINE WAS DAMAGED TO THIS EXTENT

第四十一話
最後の頁

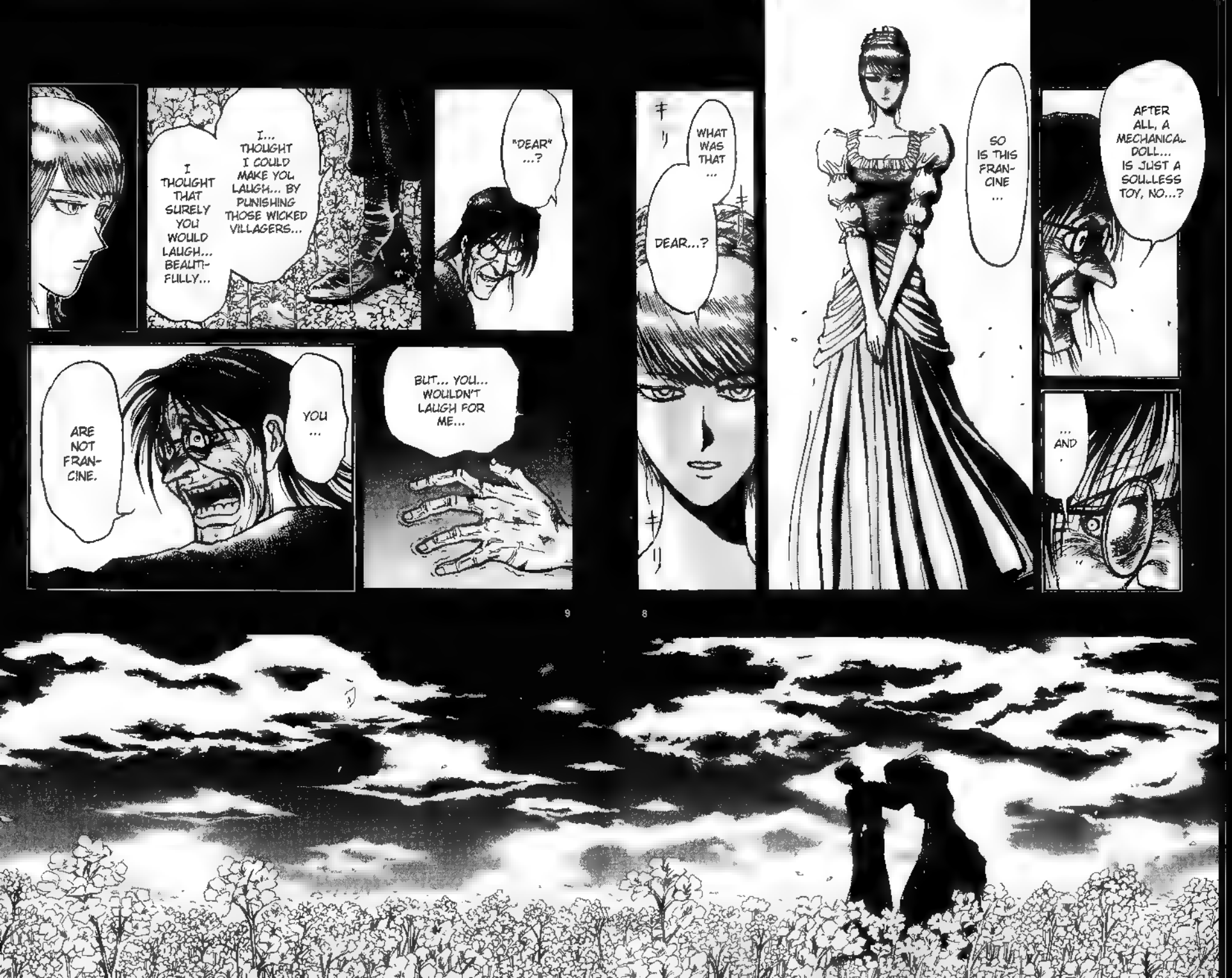
WELL, HE'S DEAD NOW ISN'T HE? THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ALMENDRA
THAT PERSON CAME FROM A CLAN OF PUPPET USERS DID HE NOT ? OHH, I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANYONE FROM A HUMAN CIRCUS
I NEVER THOUGHT TO ENCOUNTER A HUMAN CAPABLE OF MOVING FASTER THAN THE AUTOMATA ...
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT ARLEC-CHINO
HOW-EVER ...
THIS IS A TRIFLE CONCER-NING...
4
THAT'S WHAT I'M GETTING AT, COLUMBINE.
A DOG WITH A SENSE OF SMELL MANY THOUSANDS OF TIMES BETTER THAN A HUMAN'S HAS MEMORIZED PANTALONE'S SCENT
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, DOTTORE ?
YES...
PANTALONE, YOU SAID THERE WAS A DOG THAT HAD BECOME A SHIROGANE?
AND WHEN A HUMAN BECOMES A SHIROGANE, THEIR ABILITIES ARE AMPLIFIED BY ABOUT FIVE TIMES
AN ORDINARY DOG PURSUING IT'S PREY HAS A SENSE OF SMELL TEN THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN A HUMAN'S

ゴルオオ
THE MOUNTAIN .. COLLAPSED
YES... AND WITH IT
ANY CHANCE OF DIGGING UP THE SPRING OF AQUA VITAE HAS VANISHED
5

BE STRONG, MISS MING-XIA.
MASTER STAYED TRUE TO THE PRINCIPLES HE LIVED BY AS A MARTIAL ARTIST.
I KNOW... I KNOW THAT, WANG... BUT... BUT...
THAT WEIRD FOUNTAIN OF MEDICINE... WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE RIGHT THERE ...?
THAT WAS WHY DAD HAD THOSE EXPLOSIVES ...
I... I WAS FINALLY SO CLOSE TO UNDERSTANDING HIM...

WAIT JUST A MOMENT, MING-XIA... THE ANSWER TO THAT IS PROBABLY WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK ...
-UNCLE ...

AFTER KROAG VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED
JUST WHAT DID THE CREATOR OF THE AUTOMATA BAI JIN DO?


AFTER ALL, A MECHANICAL DOLL... IS JUST A SOULLESS TOY, NO...?
... AND
SO IS THIS FRAN-CINE ...
WHAT WAS THAT ...
DEAR...?
8
"DEAR" ...?
I... THOUGHT I COULD MAKE YOU LAUGH... BY PUNISHING THOSE WICKED VILLAGERS...
I THOUGHT THAT SURELY YOU WOULD LAUGH... BEAUTI-FULLY...
BUT... YOU... WOULDN'T LAUGH FOR ME...
YOU ...
ARE NOT FRAN-CINE.
9

I GAVE YOU FRANCINE'S HAIR...
I USED THE AQUA VITAE, I BUILT YOU TO BE CAPABLE OF ANY HUMAN BEHAVIOR
BUT STILL ...!
YOU STILL ARE NOT FRAN-CINE!!
IT HURTS, DOESN'T IT? AFTER ALL, I BUILT YOU WITH THE NEED TO DRAW BREATH, JUST LIKE FRANCINE.
AH... UH...
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A DOLL!
GOODBYE.
ガクン
GOOD-BYE, DOLL WHO IS NOT FRAN-CINE.
BUT THIS IS GOODBYE, DOLL.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
I'D THOUGHT THAT I WOULD LIVE WITH THIS DOLL ...
"I" ...?
SO I DRANK THE AQUA VITAE...
THE SACRED LIQUID THAT GRANTS IMMORTALITY ...
TELL ME...
WHAT SHOULD I DO, FRANCINE ...?
AND SO, LIKE HIS BROTHER YIN, HE DEPARTED QUIBERON.
LEAVING BEHIND THE DOLL FRANCINE AND THE OTHER PUPPETS...
...HE BEGAN TO WANDER.

SCAN-
DINAVIA...
RUSSIA...
BECAUSE HE HAD DRUNK THE ELIXIR, HIS BODY, WHICH AGED ONLY ONE YEAR FOR EVERY FIVE THAT PASSED, NEVER GREW TIRED.
HE SIMPLY WANDERED AIMLESSLY.
EVENTUALLY A NOSTALGIA FOR HIS NATIVE VILLAGE GREW IN HIS HEART
AND BY THAT TIME, JIN HAD DISCOVERED ANOTHER WAY TO DIE.
コオオオ
AT LAST ...
JIN RETURNED TO CHINA AFTER 52 YEARS.
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY REGRETS
I LOOKED UPON MY HOMETOWN AGAIN
AND NOW .. I'LL JUST JUMP INTO THIS
コポポ

FOR AN ALCHEMIST TO DIE BY MELTING INTO HIS OWN CREATION... IT'S RATHER NICE, ISN'T IT...?
THIS AQUA VITAE WILL COMPLETELY DISSOLVE ME.
"IT'S RATHER NICE, ISN'T IT...?"
THIS BOOK IS DEFINITELY WEIRD.
THERE'S TOO MUCH IN IT ABOUT JIN.

FRANCINE, YOU ARE NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD...
I WILL GO TO WHERE YOU ARE.
TO SOME OTHER LAND, WHERE YOU NOW LIVE...
THAT'S WHERE I'LL TRAVEL.
THAT'S WHERE I'LL TRAVEL.
...JUST WHO WROTE THIS BOOK?!
I-IT CAN'T BE!

BAI JIN
WITH THIS, I END THE BOOK I HAVE WRITTEN OF MY CONFESSIONS.

WHAT A PITIFUL GUY ...
THAT HE HAD TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE SOMEONE ELSE HAD DRAWN AND WRITTEN THIS?
HE WAS SO FULL OF SHAME AND REGRET OVER HIS ACTIONS ...

TH-THE PERSON WHO WROTE THIS BOOK ...
WAS BAI JIN HIMSELF?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO ENDS UP READING IT...

ぽた

I'LL BE COMING TO YOU SOON
FRANCINE
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT
THAT'S RIGHT I WONDER WHY I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT UNTIL NOW...
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. SHE... IS STILL HERE.
KUKU DID I SAY FRANCINE IS NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD —?
WHY I JUST WENT ABOUT IT THE WRONG WAY

HEY, LOOK, LUCILLE.
THERE'S SOME MORE WRITTEN ON THAT LAST PAGE...

SO LONG AS THE AQUA VITAE EXISTS.
THAT IT ISN'T OVER!!
I REALIZED...

IT SEEMS THAT JIN...
MAY NOT HAVE DIED AFTER ALL. WE SHOULD OPERATE UNDER THE ASSUMPTION ...

WOOF

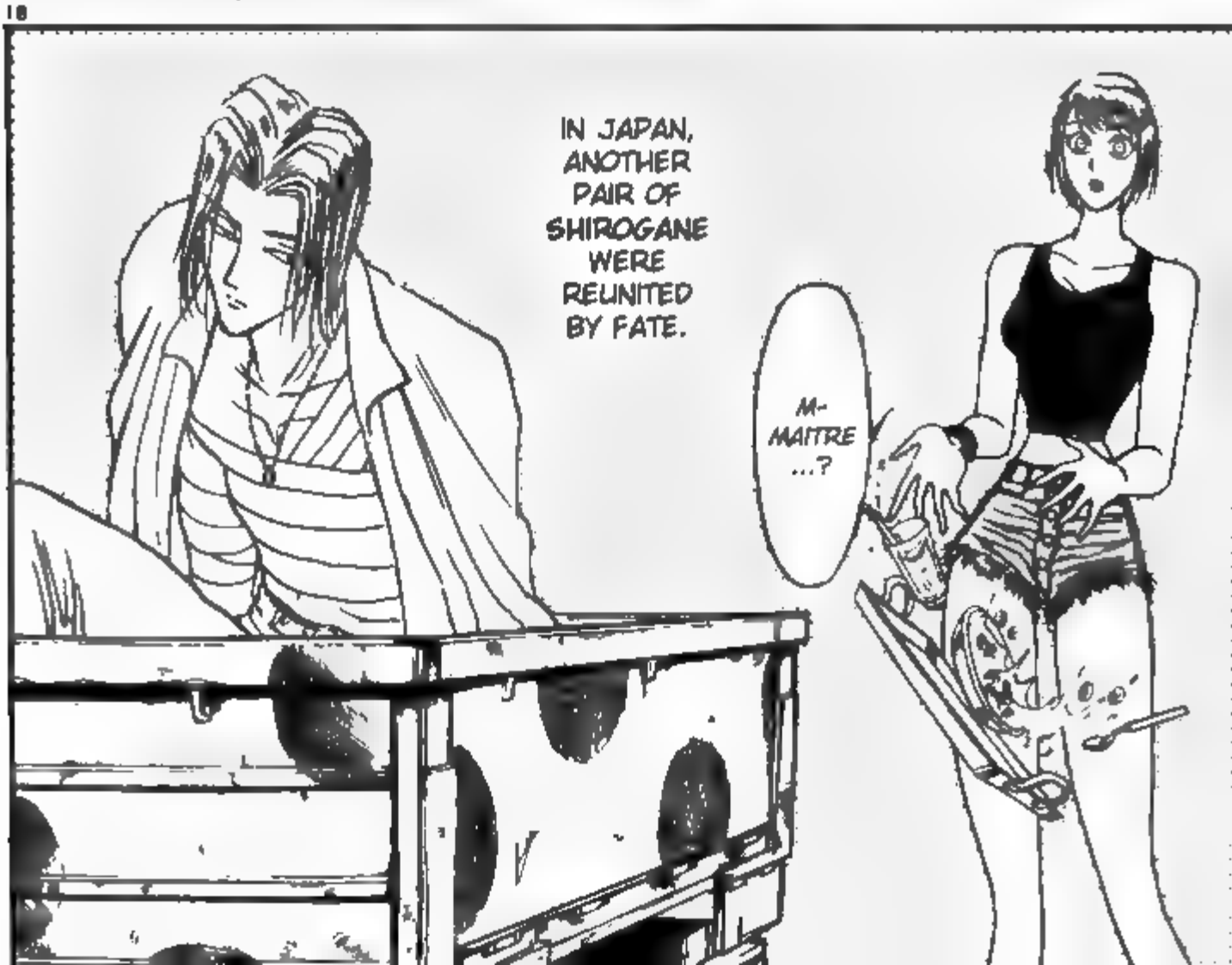
BUT WHAT ...
THAT HE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING JUST BEFORE HE WAS GOING TO DIE, AND CHANGED HIS PLAN.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WENT?
THE ALITO-MA-TON ..

WOOF

OH, IT'S THE DOG ...

JIN AND THE AUTOMATA ARE SURELY CONNECTED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE.
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS DOG KNOWS A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN JUST THIS.
JIN IS ALSO A MATTER OF CONCERN, BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW THIS LEAD.
LET'S GO, NARUMI.
NO WAY... THIS DOG UNDER-STANDS...
HUH?
AS THESE TWO SHIROGANE BEGAN TO FOLLOW THE DOG TOWARDS THEIR NEXT BATTLE...
M-MISS MING-XIA!
O-OKAY.
AH! HEY, WAIT A SECOND!


IN JAPAN, ANOTHER PAIR OF SHIROGANE WERE REUNITED BY FATE.
M-MAITRE ...?

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

Welcome back! It's coming
up on a year since I started
this project. Thank you all
for sticking with me this far

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

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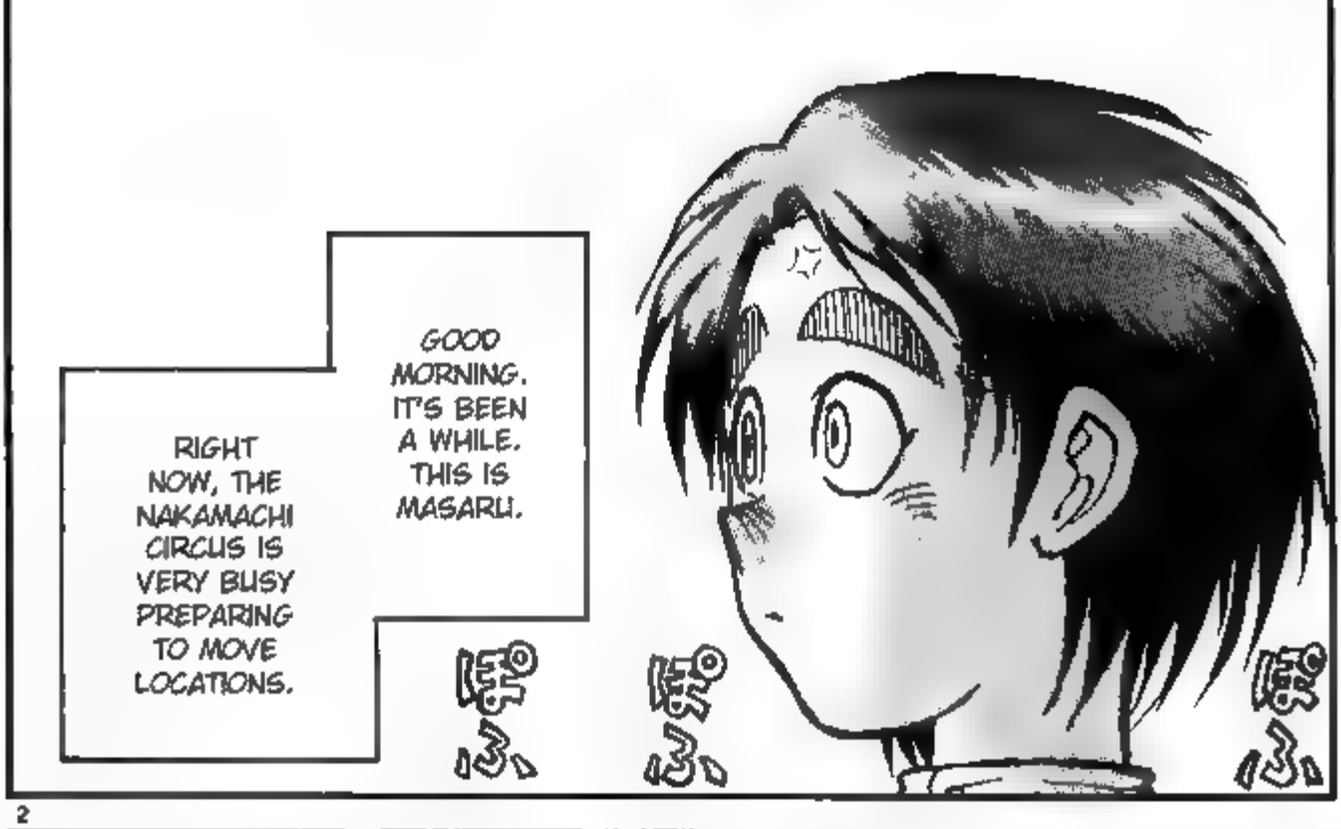
Intermission II

Guy in the Nakamachi Circus



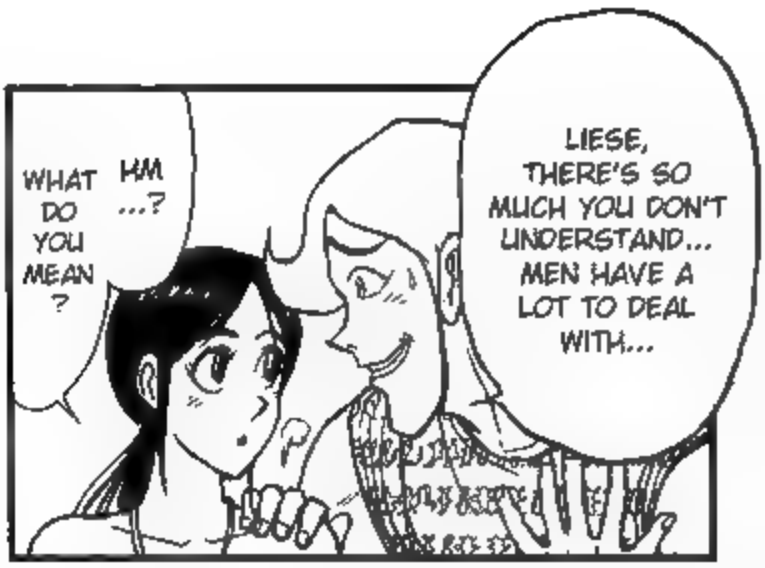
2

STAGE SKIRTING: A CURTAIN THAT COVERS THE LEGS OF A HIGH STAGE

I KNOW, I KNOW.
GOT IT.
NAOTA!
OKAY, PUT THE STAGE SKIRTING FOR THE PUPPET SHOW THERE
WE CAN STILL FIT SOMETHING IN OVER HERE.
HEEEY, OLD MAN, WE'RE DONE LOADING UP THE TRUCK.
COME ON, NOW, VIRMA, DON'T HANDLE THE DOLLIES ROUGHLY.

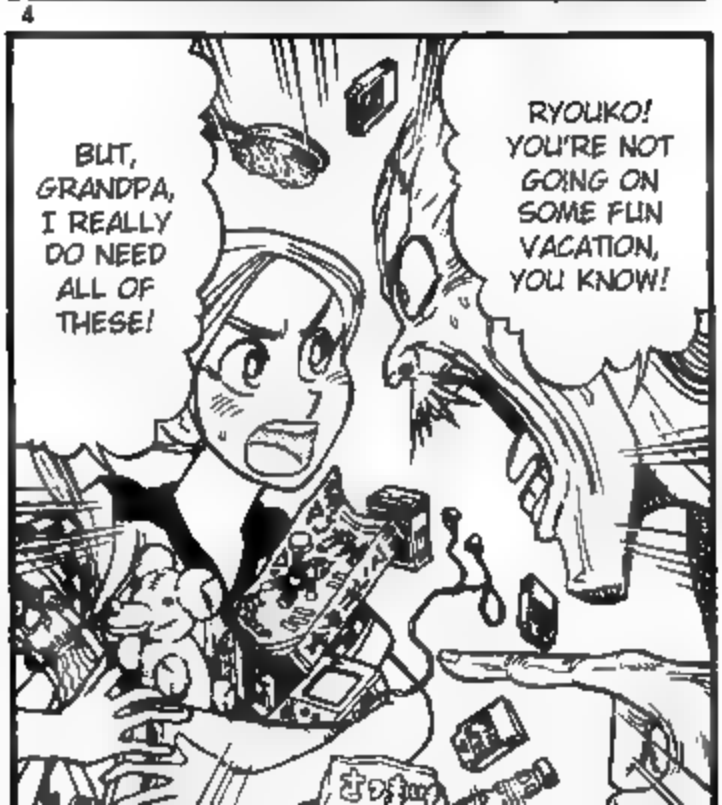
HA HA ...
...? IS HE FEELIN' OKAY?
stomp stomp
MOR-NING, MASA-RUUU!
IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BE HERE ANYMORE.
TWO DAYS AGO THERE WAS A PLANE CRASH. WE WEREN'T ABLE TO PUT ON OUR SHOW, AND THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL WAS CALLED OFF ENTIRELY.
AH!
pat pat
...HE HATES ME...
stomp stomp
GOOD MORNING, MASARU-SAN!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! GOOD MORNING, LIESE-SAN!
カ カ
WH-WHAT COULD HAVE HAP-PENED?
HE SEEMS TO BE IN A BAD MOOD SOMEHOW.
IS SOMETHING UP WITH MASARU?
THAT BOY'S ACTING STRANGE.
SORRY, NORI-SAN. SORRY, HIRO-SAN. GOOD! MORNING!
カ カ

THAT'S RIGHT...! I STARTED TO THINK ABOUT NOTHING BUT GIRLS...!
SAY, HIRO, YOU REMEMBER BEING AT THAT AGE TOO, DON'TCHA?


HM ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
LIESE, THERE'S SO MUCH YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... MEN HAVE A LOT TO DEAL WITH...

QUIT IT WITH THE ADVICE, PLEASE.
HA HA. IF IT'S THAT KIND OF TIME FOR HIM, LIESE-CHAN, AT NIGHT, YOU SHOULD ...

RIGHT, RIGHT... PANTIES AND SUCH ...!
YEAH, YEAH! ME TOO! IT'S THE BUDDING OF YOUR YOUTH, RIGHT?
しず しずしず
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME!


BUT, GRANDPA, I REALLY DO NEED ALL OF THESE!
RYOUKO! YOU'RE NOT GOING ON SOME FUN VACATION, YOU KNOW!

BUT, Y'KNOW, MASARU DOESN'T USUALLY GET INTO THESE BAD MOODS...

HUH ?
YOU'RE A BIT SLOW...

I FORGOT TO MENTION. SOME NEW MEMBERS HAVE JOINED THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.
OH.
I KNO-O-OW ...!
IF YOU DIDN'T KEEP STUDYING AND ATTENDING SCHOOL!
BEFORE WE LEFT, I PROMISED YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER TO SEND YOU STRAIGHT HOME...

YEAH, YEAH ...
I HATE THE CIRCUS!
HMPH! I TOLD YOU, I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT GRANDPA!

AND HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER RYOUKO-SAN.
THE PROPERTY MAN, UBUKATA HOUAN-SAN, ALSO CALLED "THE OLD YELLER" ...

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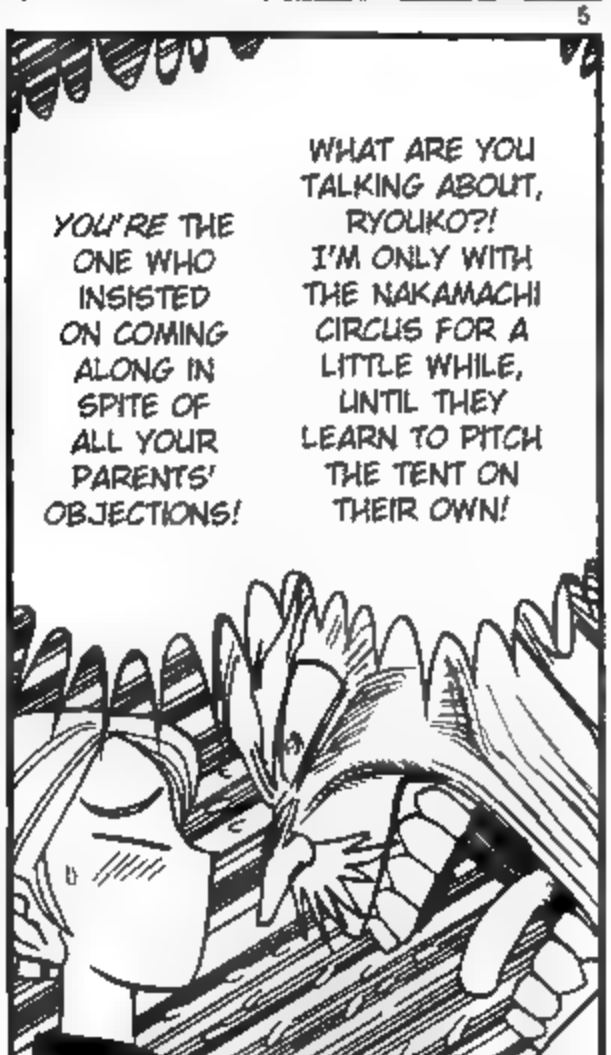
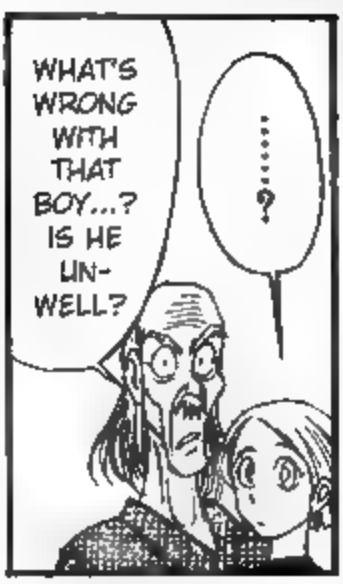
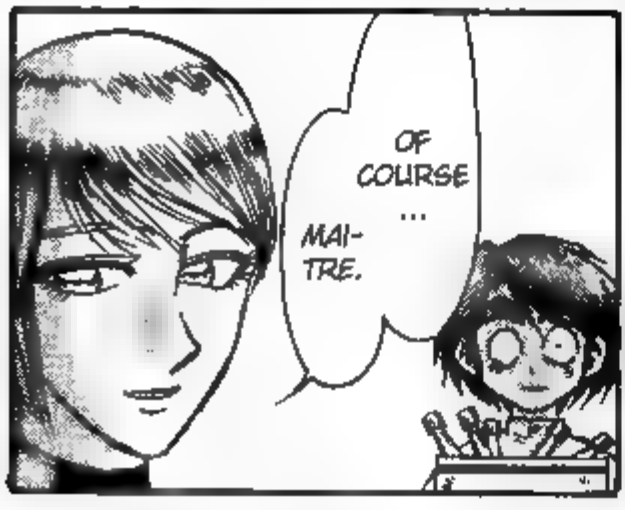

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON COMING ALONG IN SPITE OF ALL YOUR PARENTS' OBJECTIONS!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, RYOUKO?! I'M ONLY WITH THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS FOR A LITTLE WHILE, UNTIL THEY LEARN TO PITCH THE TENT ON THEIR OWN!


WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT BOY...? IS HE UN-WELL?
.....?

SHIRO-GANEEE ... NAKA-MACHI-SAN WANTS YOU ...
NOT AT ALL! I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS!

I SEE. I'LL BE THERE IN A MOMENT ...
I'M NOT IN A BAD MOOD AT ALL ...

ALL RIGHT... BUY ME SOME WINE, IF YOU WOULD.
I'LL BE OFF NOW, MAITRE.


OF COURSE ... MAI-TRE.

I AM... TOTALLY FINE!

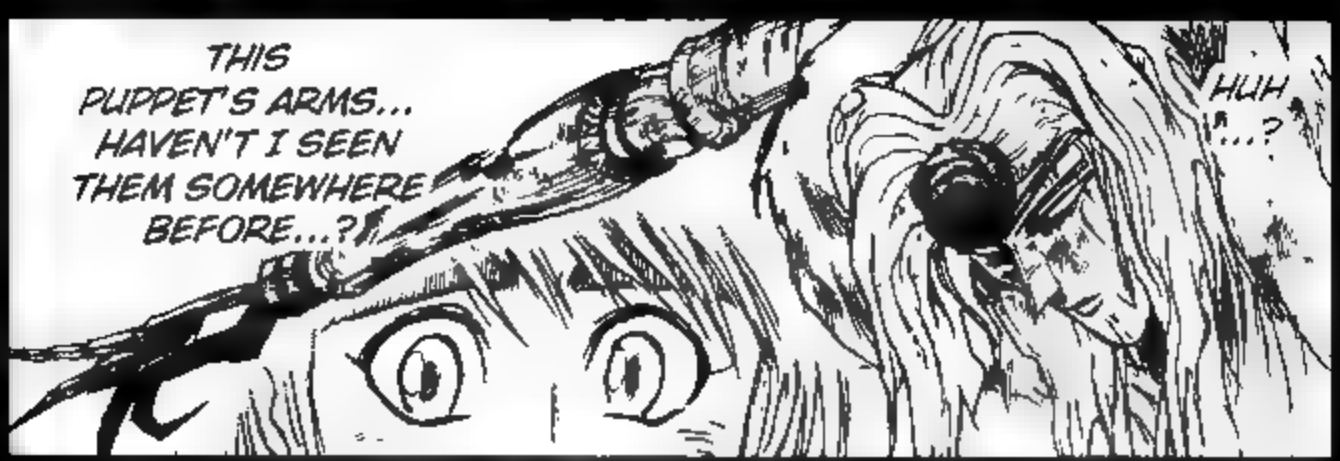
HE CAME TO OUR CIRCUS TWO DAYS AGO, AFTER THE PLANE CRASH.
THIS PERSON IS GUY-CHRI-STOPHE RÊCH

HEY! SOMEONE COME HELP ...!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TWO DAYS AGO.

HUH?!
THERE'S AN INJURED PERSON IN THE OCEAN!
OKAY!
NO, ACTUALLY, GO GET THAT POLICE OFFICER OVER THERE!
HEY, HIRO! NORI! CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
THIS IS TERRIBLE ... MOST OF HIS FINGERS ARE BROKEN

Maman!
IS THERE EVEN A POINT? HE LOOKS PRETTY DEAD
I'LL SAY.
OH, DEAR ...
"JUST A MOMENT."
OR, RATHER... TH S S JAPAN, 'SN'T T.
むくり
9
KIND PEOPLE OF JAPAN...
THIS IS NOTHING IMPOR-TANT.
PLEASE, SIMPLY ALLOW ME TO REST FOR A LITTLE WH LE
HE WAS A HANDSOME FOREIGNER WITH THE SAME SILVER HAIR AND EYES AS SHIROGANE.

ふぃ——
!
...I AM A DOCTOR ...
I CAN... TREAT... MY OWN WOUNDS, SO...
WE CARRIED HIM TO THE TENT FOR THE TIME BE NG.
SINCE HE SAID SO HIMSELF, AND SINCE NAKAMACHI-SAN DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE A BIG FUSS OUT OF IT EITHER...
WHAT'S THIS GUY'S DEAL?
HUH...? BUT IT'S SO DIRTY...
NORI, HIRO, CARRY THIS UP TOO.
HRMM ...
IT'S JUST RUBBISH, ISN'T IT? LEAVE IT ALONE.
PAPA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THAT B G PUPPET-LOOKING THING?
HEAVE HO!
LET'S BRING IT OVER THERE.
OKAY
IDIOTS!
THIS IS CLEARLY SOME KIND OF TOOL THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF VERY WELL!


THIS PUPPET'S ARMS... HAVEN'T I SEEN THEM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?
HUH ...?

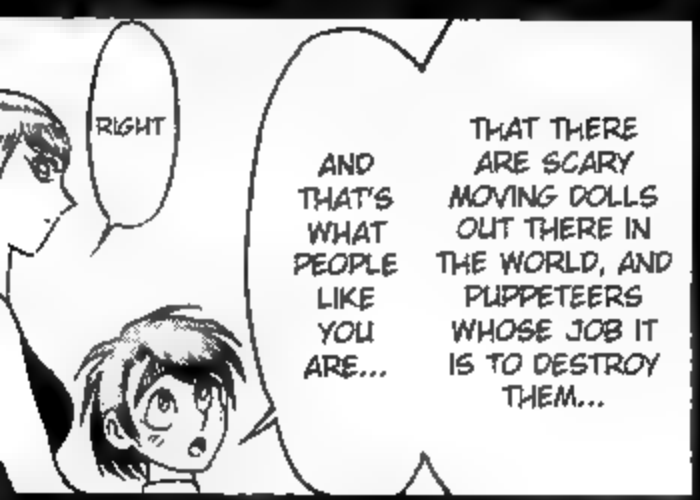
THAT'S IT. WHEN WE GOT BACK TO THE TENT, WE LAID HIM OUT ON THE THREE-WHEELED TRUCK.
IT'S NO-THING.
IS SOMETH NG WRONG, MASARU-SAN?

HELLO, I'M BACK.
WEL-COME BACK!
OH, GOOD, SO HE'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE SOON, TOO!
You're one to talk
Free-loaders are such a bother
HIS COMPLEXION IS GETTING BETTER FAST.
HE LET US DO FIRST AID, BUT HE HAS SOME AMAZING RESILIENCE.
HEY HOW'S THE FOR-EIGNER DOING?

RING-MASTER, THE POLICE HAVE COMPLETED THEIR INVESTI-GATION.
WAIT JUST A MOMENT ...
That's a terrible gag Shiro-gane.
ANYWAY, HE'S ASLEEP RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT, SHIRO-GANE.
HE MIGHT BE ONE OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN. WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM ABOUT HIS CIRCUM-STANCES ONCE HE'S AWAKE?
THAT'S RIGHT, SHIROGANE! WE FISHED A DOZAEMON OUT OF THE OCEAN!
YEAH, BUT HE WASN'T DEAD! HE HAS SILVER HAIR AND EYES JUST LIKE YOURS!
DOZAEMON: DROWNED BODY
YOU KNOW, SHIRO-GANE...
NO, SINCE WE WEREN'T REALLY INVOLVED TO BEGIN WITH.
WAS THERE ANY TROUBLE FOR US?

HE'S GOTTA BE A PERVERT! THE KIND OF MAN WHO LOVES TO MAKE WOMEN CRY...!
I'LL SAY! WITH THAT PRETTY-BOY FACE...
SOMEHOW THAT DUDE SEEMS LIKE A QUICK WORKER WITH WOMEN...!
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY NEED FOR THAT!
OLD MAN, NOOO!
HUH ...?!
VERY WELL

ER... SHIROGANE-SAN HAS ALREADY LEFT...
What are you doing?
YEAH!
PROTECT SHIROGANE!


RIGHT
AND THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE...
THAT THERE ARE SCARY MOVING DOLLS OUT THERE IN THE WORLD, AND PUPPETEERS WHOSE JOB IT IS TO DESTROY THEM...

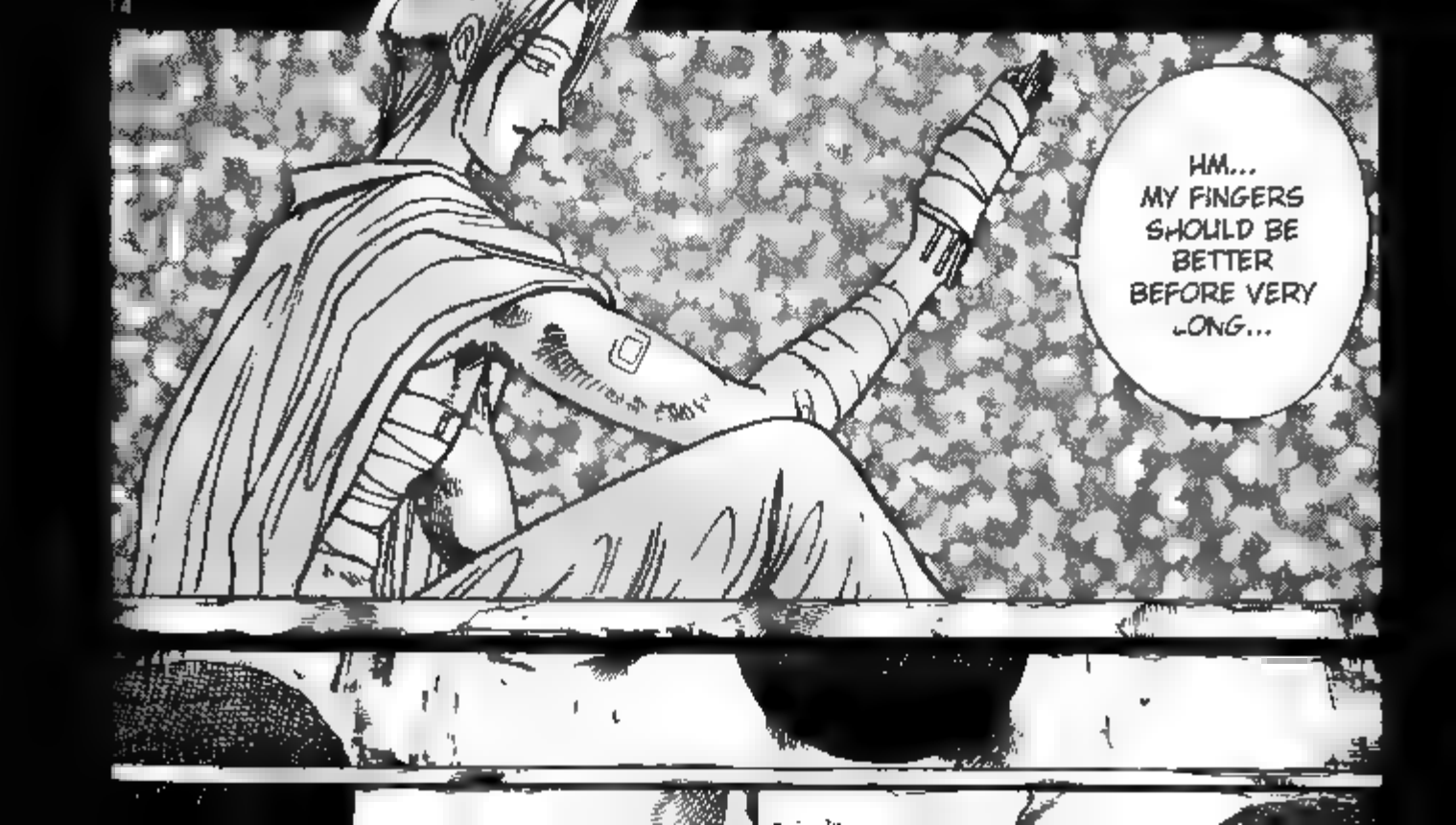
YEAH.
AND YOU SAID BEFORE, SHIRO-GANE...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.

SHI-RO-GA-NE?
SO... I DIDN'T TELL THE OTHERS, BUT... I THOUGHT THAT MAN MIGHT ALSO BE...

O...
OLYMPIA ?!

47

THEN ...
THE MAN WHOM YOU SAVED MUST BE ...


HM... MY FINGERS SHOULD BE BETTER BEFORE VERY LONG...

……!
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たたっ
ÉLÉO-
NORE.
...TO THINK
THAT WE
WOULD MEET
AGAIN IN A
PLACE LIKE THIS.
EVEN IN ONE OF
SHAKESPEARE'S
PLOTS, THIS
WOULD BE
AN UNLIKELY
DEVELOPMENT
...

IT HAS BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME, MAITRE GUY.
SO... THAT MEANS THEY'RE AWFULLY CLOSE...
SHIROGANE ... CALLS GUY-SAN "MAITRE" ...
THAT'S WHY HE KNOWS SHIROGANE'S REAL NAME WHEN I DON'T...
SO

MAYBE SO.
MM-HM.
SO, WITHOUT THE BOY NOTICING, SHE'S BECOME LIKE A SISTER OR A MOTHER TO HIM.
REGARD-LESS OF WHETHER HE WANTED HER TO OR NOT.

SO THAT'S IT, YOU SEE. THAT BOY HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF BY SHIROGANE ALL THIS TIME, SINCE SHE WAS PROTECTING HIM...

BUT, SHE SAID THAT GUY'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HER HOW TO USE PUPPETS. HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO HER FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS. SO THERE'S NO HELPING IT, RIGHT?
YEAH, I GUESS HE'D BE PRETTY PISSED OFF ...
SO, WHEN A MAN SUDDENLY APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE, CALLING HER BY NAME SO FAMILIARLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

WAHAHAHA
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...
YOU MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE TOO SOMEDAY, JIESE-CHAN!
I'VE JUST NEVER SEEN SHIROGANE ACTING THIS WAY BEFORE, THAT'S ALL.

WELL, THE BOY STILL CAN'T ACCEPT IT.

YEP! I'M JUST FINE!
I AM ABSOLUTELY *NOT* IN A BAD MOOD!!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

I've changed my translation of
Ubukata's nickname (どなりんシシイ)
from "the barking geezer" to "the old yeller"
sorry for any confusion. Also, "Vilma" will
be changed to "Virma" in future chapters,
since her name is shown written out
in romaji later in the manga

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

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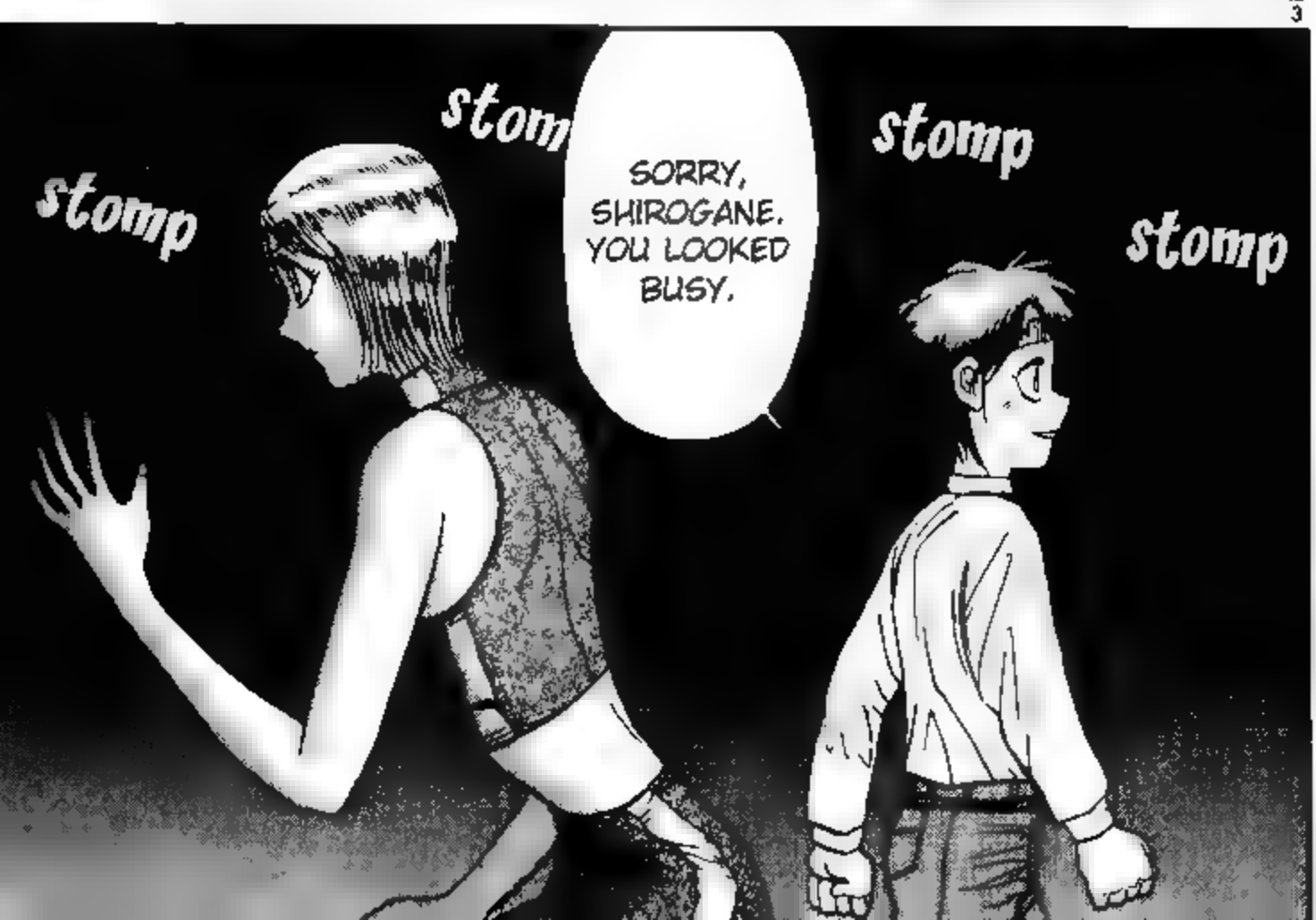
this series deserves

Intermission III～Shirogane's Crisis in the Nakamachi Circus

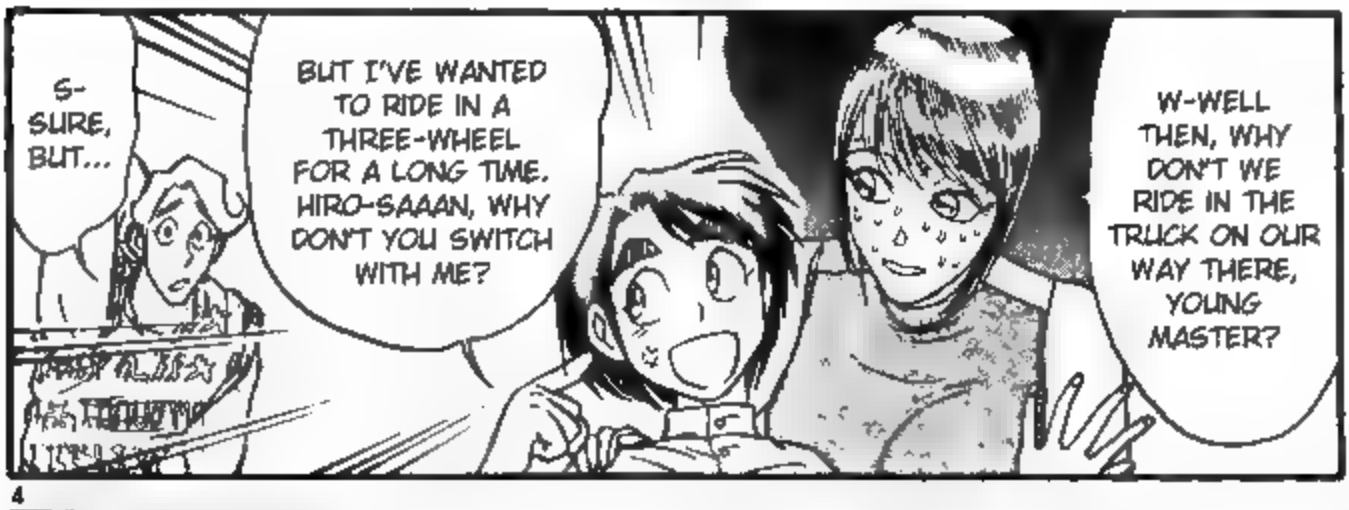
I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE YOUNG MASTER ...
HUH? I WANNA BE WITH SHIRO-GANE, THOUGH.
YOU'RE GONNA BE DRIVING THE OLD YELLER'S ONE-BOX, HIRO.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE BY NOON.
ALL RIGHT, THE PACKING'S DONE.
Why are you giving orders?
All right people. time for a break
PAPA
OH, DEAR... MY HIGH SCHOOL IS CLOSE BY, SO WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TOGETHER ...
MASARU-SAN WENT TO GO SAY GOODBYE TO HIS TEACHER AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

OKAY.
SORRY ABOUT THAT! I'M BACK NOW.
.....
SOMEHOW I FEEL AS IF HE'S NOT TELLING ME ANYTHING LATELY...
ER ...
YOUNG MASTER, I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO WITH YOU...


stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
SORRY, SHIROGANE. YOU LOOKED BUSY.

WHERE ARE WE GOING NEXT?
UM... TO THE KINKI REGION ...
GREAT! IS IT SHIKOKU?
OF COURSE NOT, DUMMY!

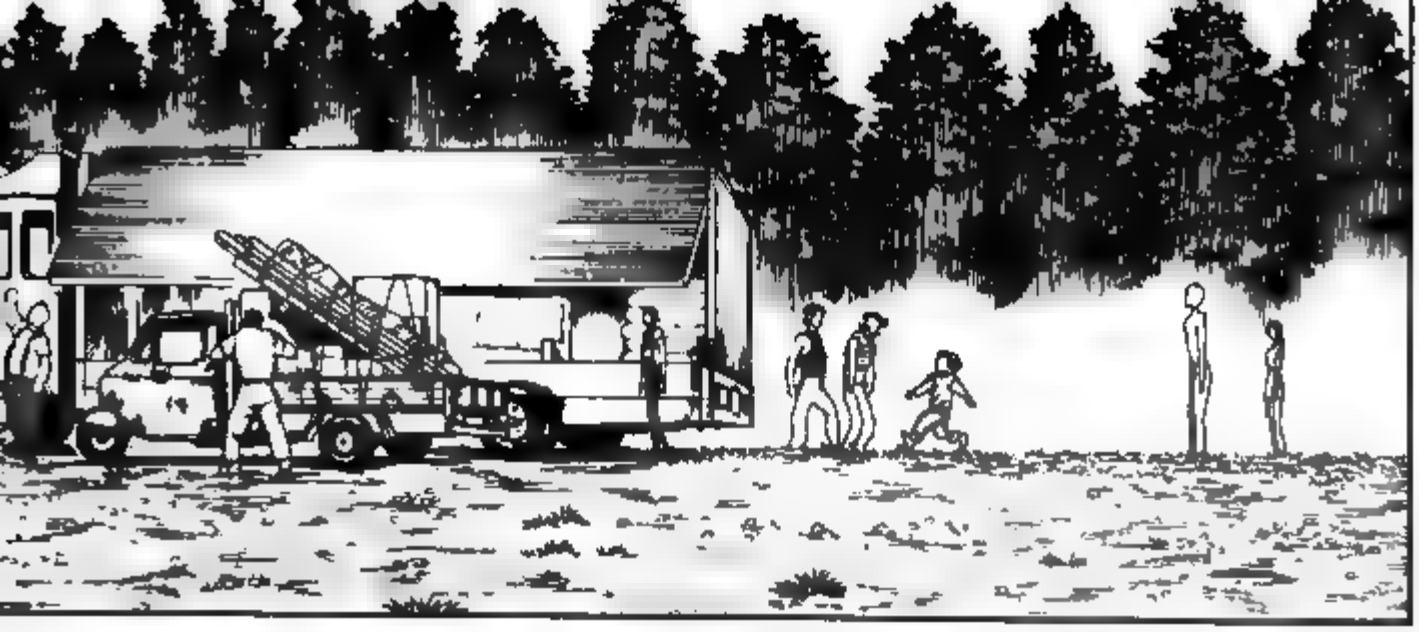
OKAY, LET'S GET GOING!


S-SURE, BUT...
BUT I'VE WANTED TO RIDE IN A THREE-WHEEL FOR A LONG TIME. HIRO-SAAAN, WHY DON'T YOU SWITCH WITH ME?
W-WELL THEN, WHY DON'T WE RIDE IN THE TRUCK ON OUR WAY THERE, YOUNG MASTER?

4

UH-UH. NOTHING AT ALL.
PERHAPS HAVE DONE SOMETHING... TO UPSET YOU?
M-MIGHT I...
E-ER ... YOUNG MAS-TER.
カクカク

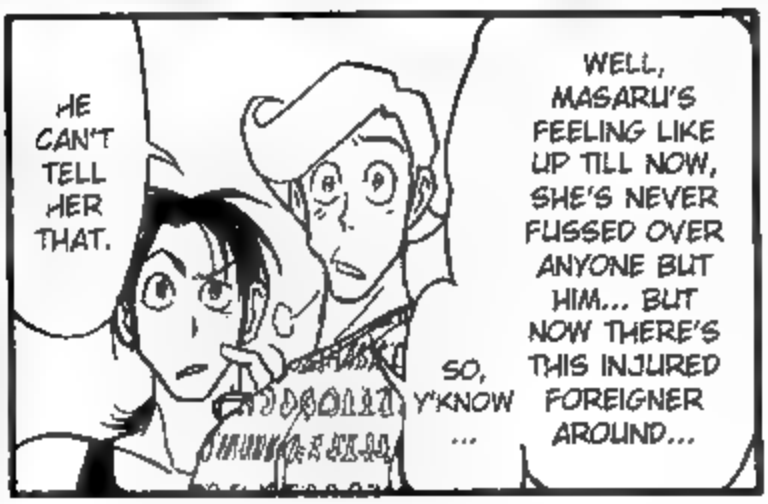
.....



I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE...

I MUST ...
SH-SHIRO-GANE-SAN, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

WELL, SHE'S CERTAINLY LOST HER COOL NOW THAT SHE HAS.
Liese's got it rough too
SHIROGANE HADN'T NOTICED ANYTHING AFTER ALL.
I... I DON'T KNOW...
RATTLE
RATTLE
LIESE-SAN, WHAT COULD IT BE? WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO THE YOUNG MASTER?!
SHAKE SHAKE SH

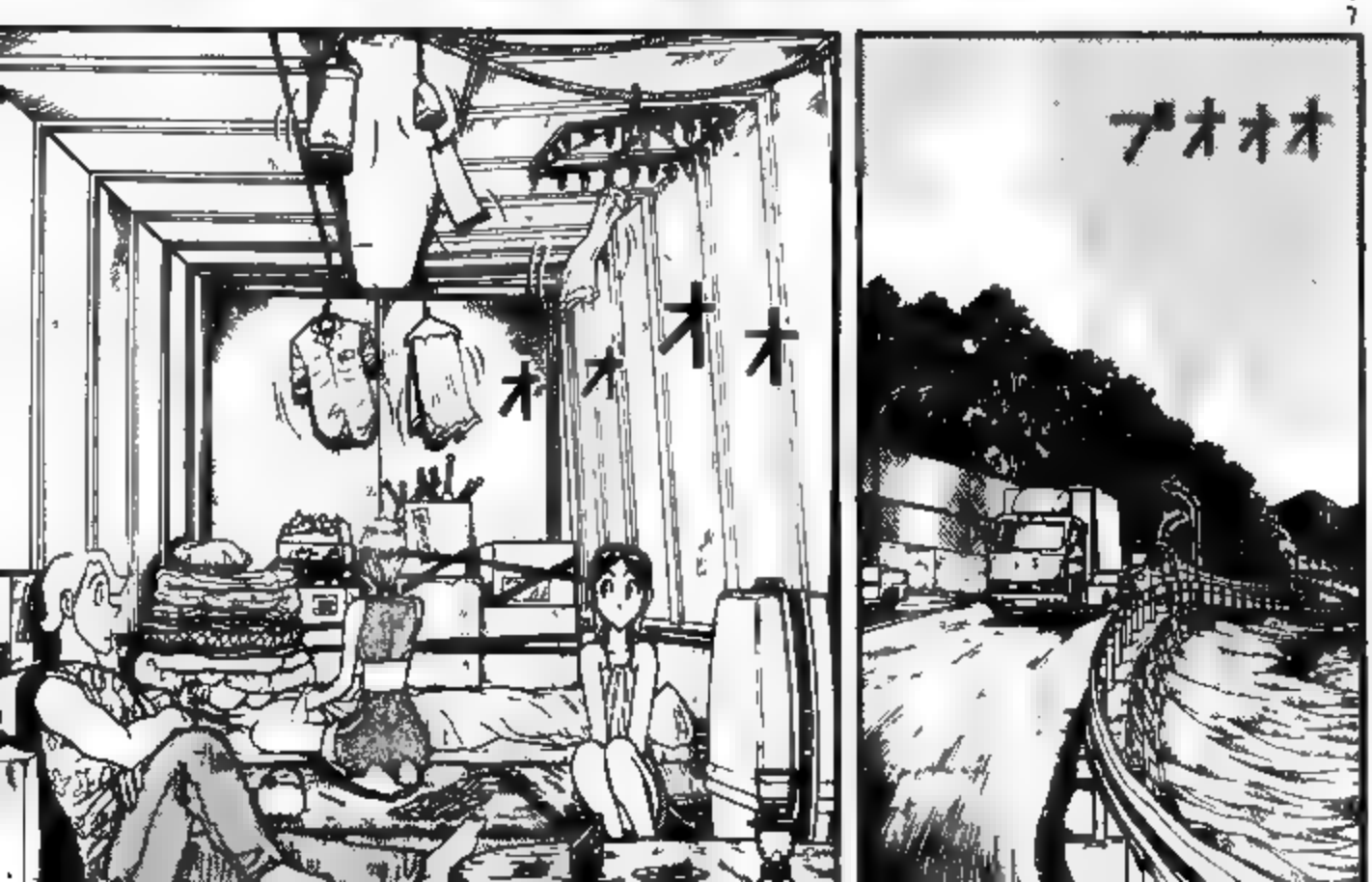

HE CAN'T TELL HER THAT.
SO, Y'KNOW ...
WELL, MASARU'S FEELING LIKE UP TILL NOW, SHE'S NEVER FUSSED OVER ANYONE BUT HIM... BUT NOW THERE'S THIS INJURED FOREIGNER AROUND...

Although, actually, Naota wasn't
HE'S A CHILD, AFTER ALL. THEY'RE VERY NAIVE AT THAT AGE.
MASARU KNOWS THAT TOO. THAT'S WHY HE'S ACTING LIKE THAT.
TCH! WELL, IT'S NOT FUN FOR ME, EITHER, BUT HE'S THE TEACHER WHO RAISED HER. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

WHEN HE GETS ANGRY, IT'S ALWAYS ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHALF.
THAT KID'S A FUNNY ONE.

ALL THAT STUFF MAY BE TRUE... BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT.
OLD MAN ...
WE'D BETTER LEAVE IT ALONE.
HUH?

HEY, SHIROGANE, THAT MAN WE FISHED OUT OF THE SEA...
GUY, WAS IT? HOW'S HE DOING?
Right. After another 2 or 3 days of bedrest we ought to be able to let him off as we go along.
YOUR SPIRITS ARE SO LOW, SHIROGANE ...
THEY'RE USUALLY SO HIGH ...
Well not that much higher
AHA! LET'S SWITCH TO A LIGHTER SUB-JECT!
HEY, THAT GUY'S A PUPPET USER TOO, RIGHT?
BUT WHILE HE WAS PRACTICING ON HIS VOYAGE HERE, HE FELL OUT OF THE SHIP?!
WHAT A DOPE, HUH ?!
Yes, he really is..
Shiro gane san!
Flop
IT DIDN'T WORK!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OPTION 1 HE DIDN'T LIKE THE UNDERPANTS I BOUGHT HIM RECENTLY.

Yes
No

THE YOUNG MASTER IS RELATIVELY FOND OF RABBITS.

OPTION 2 HE DIDN'T LIKE THE WHITE ASPARAGUS I SERVED HIM AT DINNER LAST NIGHT.

Yes
No

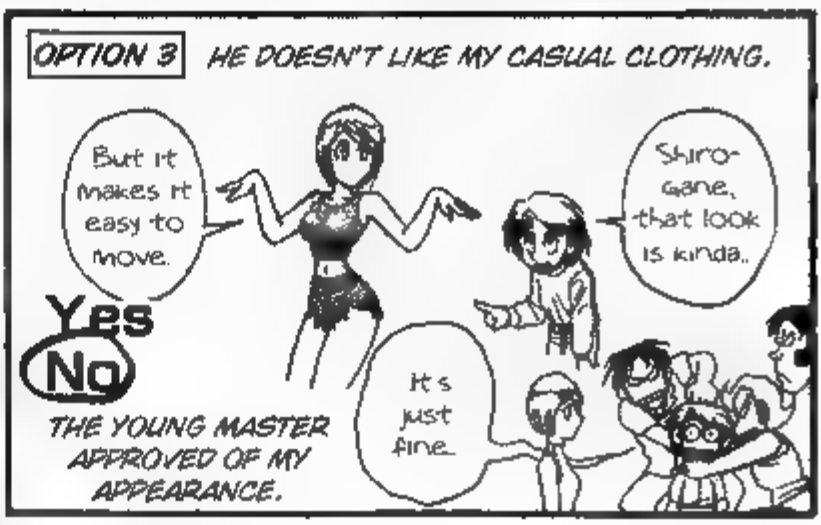
IT SEEMED THAT HE MANAGED TO EAT IT WITH THE HELP OF A GREAT DEAL OF MAYONNAISE.

(SINCE THE RINGMASTER DOESN'T ALLOW ANY PICKINESS AT MEALS.)

8

OPTION 4 HE... HAS COME TO DISLIKE ME.

OPTION 3 HE DOESN'T LIKE MY CASUAL CLOTHING.



Yes
No

THE YOUNG MASTER APPROVED OF MY APPEARANCE.

YOU MUST PROTECT A CHILD NAMED MASARU...
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME HUMAN...
NO...
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THAT ANYMORE...
THAT THE YOUNG MASTER HAS EVER SMILED LIKE THAT ...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME ...
OH... LIESE-SAN.
EXCUSE ME... MAY I SIT DOWN?
H-HEY, LIESE ...
AND IT WAS AT ME!
HM?
SHIRO-GANE-SAN, YOU'RE VERY MYSTE-RIOUS.
.....
フォォォォ

.....
BUT JUDGING FROM THE TECHNIQUES YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR MARIONETTE AND THE WAY YOU KEEP YOUR COOL IN AN EMERGENCY... YOU MUST HAVE HAD A VERY DIFFICULT LIFE.
I KNOW... THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN VERY LONG SINCE I JOINED THIS CIRCUS... AND I DON'T KNOW YOU VERY WELL...

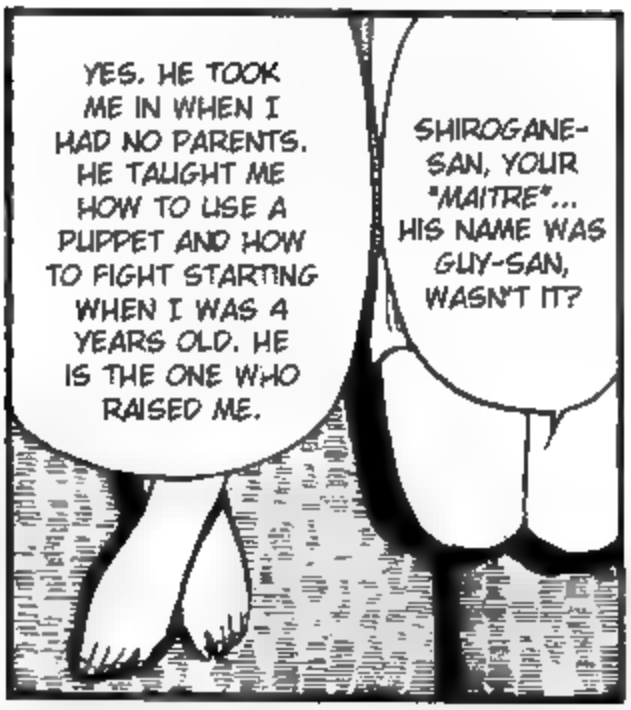
I'M SURE THAT MASARU-SAN HAS NOTICED THAT...
AND HE'S SUDDENLY STARTED TO FEEL LONELY BECAUSE OF IT.

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD MASARU-SAN ABOUT YOUR OLD LIFE, HAVE YOU, SHIROGANE-SAN?

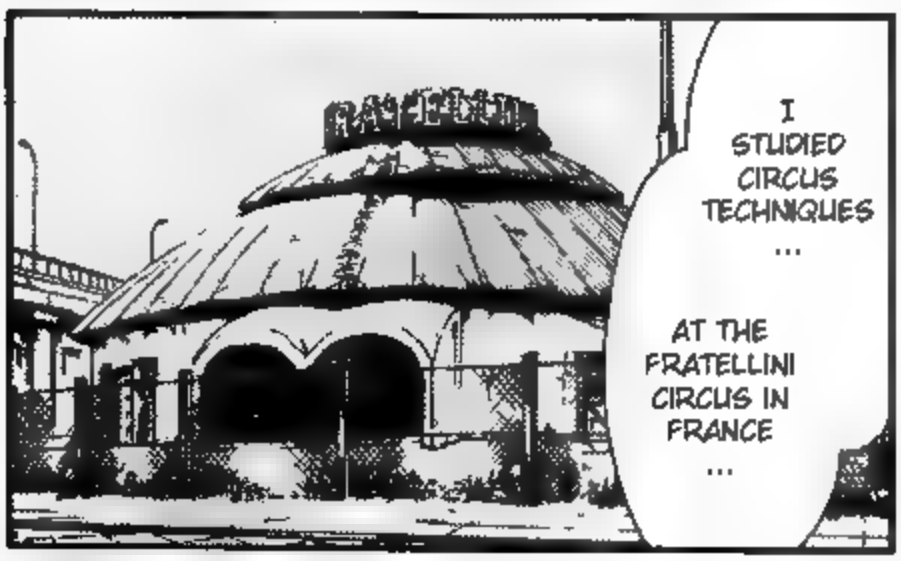
... THAT'S R.GHT.

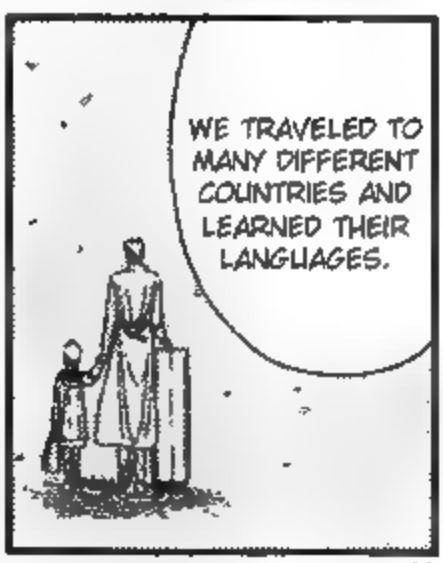
I KNOW, BECAUSE... I PROBABLY... TREATED MY BIG SISTER LIKE THAT AS WELL.

...AND THAT'S WHY HE'S AVOIDING ME...?
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, F HE'S WITH YOU, HE'S BOUND TO MAKE A NASTY FACE AND SAY CRUEL THINGS, DON'T YOU THINK?
THAT'S A VERY UGLY THING... AND HE'S SURELY DOING THIS BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT...


SHIROGANE-SAN, YOUR "MAITRE"... HIS NAME WAS GUY-SAN, WASN'T IT?
YES. HE TOOK ME IN WHEN I HAD NO PARENTS. HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE A PUPPET AND HOW TO FIGHT STARTING WHEN I WAS 4 YEARS OLD. HE IS THE ONE WHO RAISED ME.

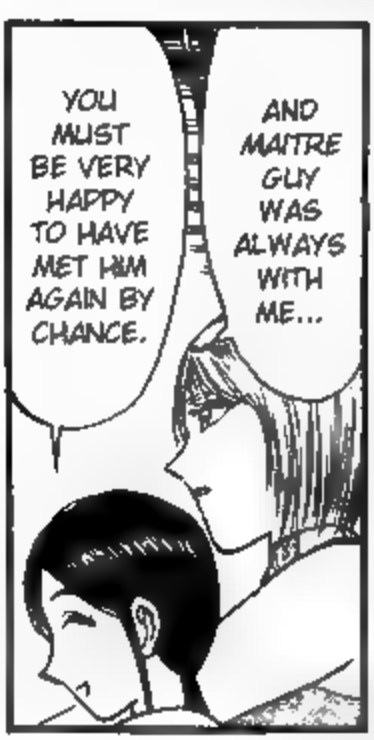
GREAT JOB, LIESE!!
AWE-SOME !!


I STUDIED CIRCUS TECHNIQUES ...
AT THE FRATELLINI CIRCUS IN FRANCE ...


WE TRAVELED TO MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND LEARNED THEIR LANGUAGES.

11

SINCE A SIDE OF YOU THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HAS BEEN COMING OUT MORE AND MORE SINCE GUY-SAN APPEARED...
I WONDER IF MASARU-SAN HASN'T STARTED TO FEEL LONELY.


YOU MUST BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET HIM AGAIN BY CHANCE.
AND MAITRE GUY WAS ALWAYS WITH ME...

AND ACROBATICS WITH THE WU ZHOU ACROBATIC TROUPE.

NICE WORK, LIESE !!
MASARU-SAN DOESN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY, DOES HE?
NOR ANYONE HE REMEMBERS FROM LONG AGO ...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT GIRL IS PRETTY GOOD... AT HANDLING HEAVY MATTERS TOO.
HOHO... HERE I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A SPACY KID...

ァァァ
ァァァァ

DUMB-ASS!
I-I'M NOT MAD AT SHIROGANE AT ALL, NORI-SA—
YOU'RE MAD AT HER, AIN'TCHA?
HUH?
HEY, MASARU, HURRY UP AND FORGIVE SHIROGANE, WILL YA?
SO...
LISTEN UP, MASARU! MAYBE SHIROGANE'S BEEN A GOOD BIG SISTER TO YOU UP TILL NOW, BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PART SOMEDAY.
NORI-SAN...
YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE SHIT TO HER BECAUSE YOU'RE STEWING IN JEALOUSY OVER HER GETTING ALONG WITH ANOTHER MAN, AREN'T YOU?!
13
I'M SORRY, NORI-SAN! I UNDERSTAND! BUT IF IT'S YOU WITH SHIROGANE, I WON'T GET JEALOUS AT ALL!!
UNTIL THE DAY I, THE AWESOME NORIYUKI, MARRY SHIROGANE!
SET ASIDE YOUR JEAL-OUSY !!
OKAY, JUST DO IT STRAIGHT UP...
I MEAN, UH, LOOK, MASARU...
COUGH
UWEH HEH HEH HEH
And, um crying about
NORI-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
HEH HEH HEH HEH

I DON'T WANT TO.
JUST HURRY UP AND FORGIVE HER, MASARU.

HUH?! ME?
HUH?! YOU'RE REALLY THAT JEALOUS OVER THAT FOREIGNER?!

SCREE

DO I FEEL LIKE HE'S... TAKING SHIROGANE AWAY FROM ME...?
UM...

OF COURSE WE DID!
HMPH...
SO YOU GUYS NOTICED I WASN'T THE SAME AS USUAL...

ブーケケケ

WELL, WHY THE HELL NOT?!
CAN'T JUST FORGIVE HER LIKE THAT...
BUT, YOU KNOW... NORI-SAN, I STILL...
RIGHT? SO IN THAT CASE, JUST FORGIVE HER ALREADY...

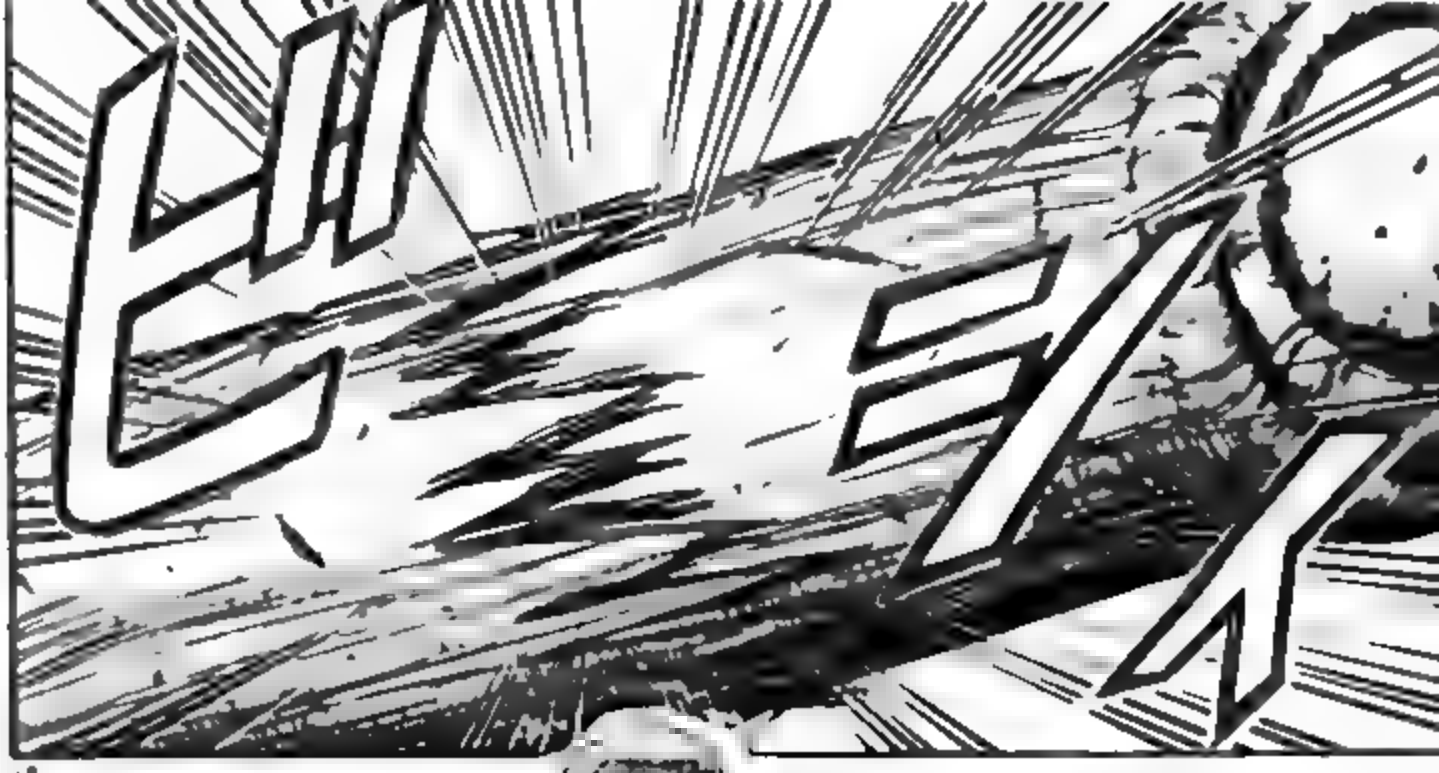
I GUESS IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY...
WELL... I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT...

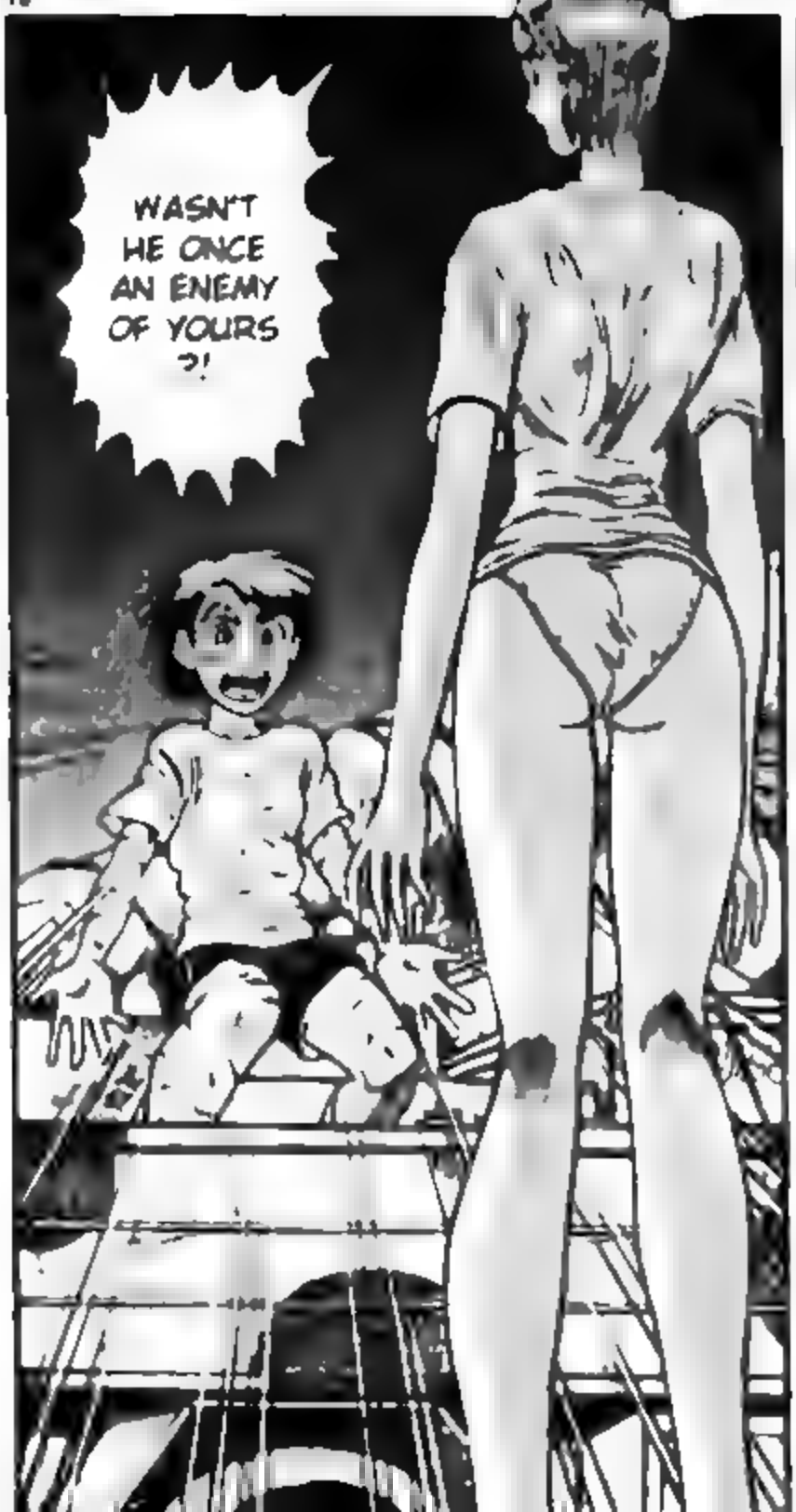
BECAUSE THE ONE WHO SHIRO-GANE'S ...
BEING TAKEN FROM ...
DEFINITELY ISN'T ME...

AND BESIDES THAT.. THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WORRYING ME.

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

17
COULD THIS ARM FROM ARLEQUIN HAVE COME
THIS PUPPET GUY-GAIN CALLED IT "OLYMPUS"


EH
EH
EH


WASN'T HE ONCE AN ENEMY OF YOURS ?!

IT FITS!
THIS WAS ONE OF OLYMPIA'S ARMS AFTER ALL!

AH

YOUR MASTER
SH-SHIRO-GANE
JUST WHO IS THIS GUY PER-SON ?

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

pg 4 The Kinki region is also known as Kansai. Shikoku is one of the four main islands that make up Japan, not a place inside Kansai.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text. and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

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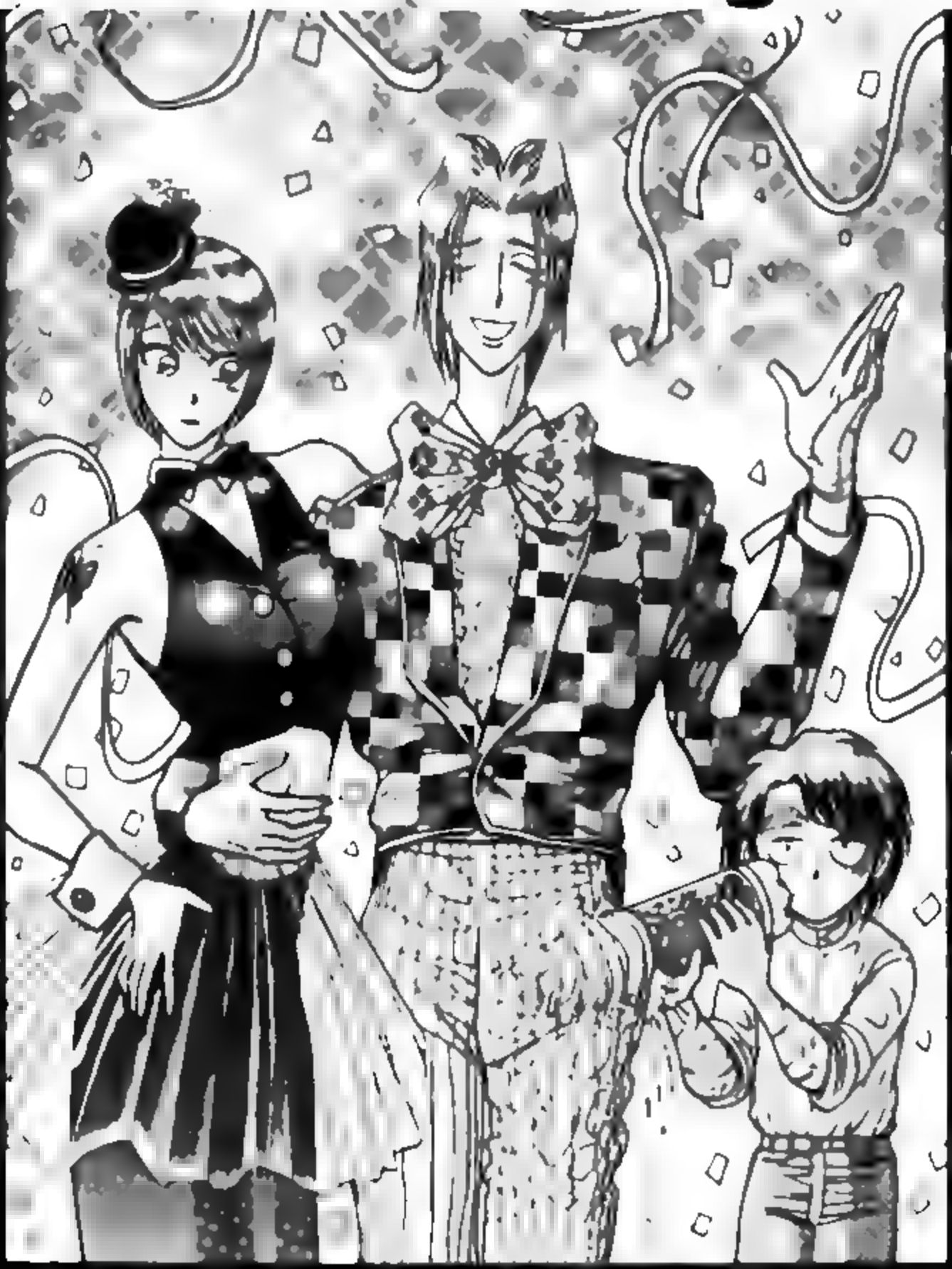
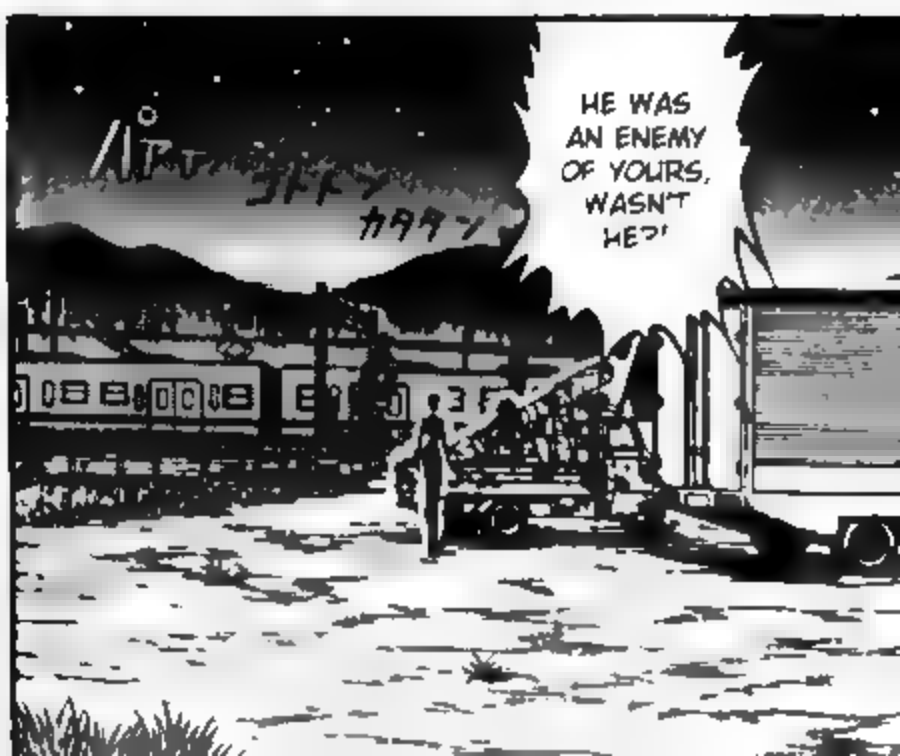
Intermission IV～Another Closing Bell



WAS REALLY AN ARM FROM THIS PUPPET!
LOOK! THIS ARM THAT WAS ON ARLEQUIN ...
DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU FOUGHT THIS GUY PERSON ONCE?!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, SHIROGANE ?!

2

MAITRE GUY HAS ALWAYS ... PRO-TECTED ME ...
NO NO, YOUNG MASTER


HE WAS AN ENEMY OF YOURS, WASN'T HE?!

I ALSO HAD THE FEELING THAT THERE WAS SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN ARLEQUIN AND OLYMPIA ...
BUT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE I WAS BORN ...
GRR
TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
MAITRE GUY WOULD NOT...
3
IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN, YOU MAY END UP BEARING AN ENORMOUSLY HEAVY BURDEN.
THAT YOU MAY LEARN FOR YOURSELF WHEN YOU ARE OLDER.
THAT IS SOMETHING ...
I ASKED HIM MANY TIMES ABOUT THOSE ARMS, AND ABOUT THE SCRATCHES ON ARLEQUIN ...
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO KNOW.
RIGHT NOW ...

THAT'S ENOUGH.
SO.. ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW THE REASON EITHER ...
MAITRE GUY IS CERTAINLY NOT AN ENEMY--
.....
HE HELD MY SHOULDER GENTLY, JUST FOR THAT MOMENT ...
AS HE SAID THAT, MAITRE, WHO WAS ALWAYS A DISTANT PERSON ...
IF I HAVE ANY FAULTS... I NEED YOU TO TELL ME, BUT I WILL CERTAINLY FIX THEM IF YOU DO ...
S-SINCE I HAVE NEVER REALLY LEARNED HOW TO SOCIALIZE WITH PEOPLE PROPERLY ...
COM-PLAINTS ...?
I-IF YOU HAVE ... ANY SORT OF COMPLAINT REGARDING ME, YOUNG MASTER ...
WHAT?
THAT'S ENOUGH... I GET IT. IF YOU SAY SO, SHIROGANE ...
Y-YOU KNOW, YOUNG MASTER ...
AH ...

HOW COULD I HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT ...?

5

USUALLY... YOU WOULDN'T EVEN THINK SOMEONE LIKE THAT COULD EVEN EXIST ...
SOMEONE AS PRETTY AND AS KIND AS YOU...!

SHIROGANE, YOU TAKE CARE OF ME NOW THAT I DON'T HAVE A MOM OR A DAD ...
YOU ALWAYS PROTECT ME AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE ...
ポト
ポト

AND FORGET ABOUT NARUMI-NIICHAN.

SO... SHIROGANE, YOU SHOULD JUST FORGET EVERYTHING AND LIVE FREELY...
FORGET ABOUT PRO-TECTING ME...

Y- YOUNG MASTER ...

I JUST... WENT AND ASSUMED...

THE ONLY PERSON WHO'D EVER SHOWN YOU KINDNESS ...
THAT NARUMI-NIICHAN WAS...

BUT... I WAS WRONG.
OBVIOUSLY... YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME, AND YOU'VE HAD A LIFE I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT...
THAT NARUMI-NICHAN WAS...
THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ABLE TO CHANGE YOU...
BUT ... BUT STILL ...
SEEING THE SHIRO-GANE I LOVE ...
FORGET ABOUT THE NARUMI-NICHAN I LOVE ...
I HATE IT...
FOR SAYING ALL THAT. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A MAN...
SORRY ...
I SHOULD TRY AND ACT LIKE IT.
GRR...

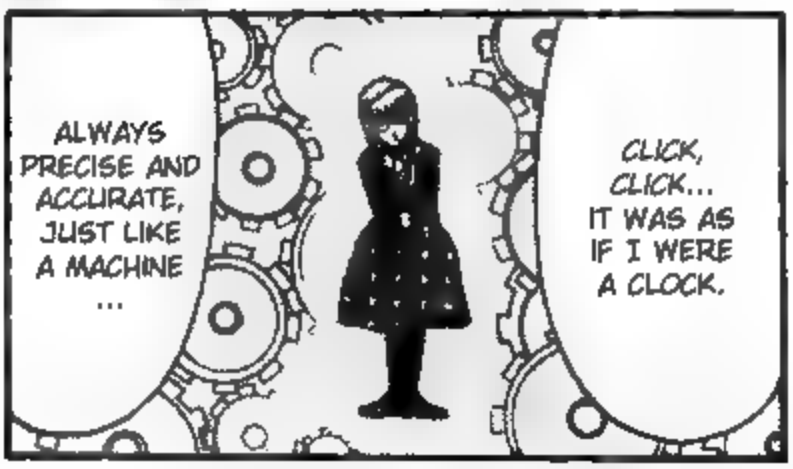
SHIRO
...
十

WH-
WH-
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
?!
SH-
SHIRO-
GANE
!!

トクーン
PLEASE LISTEN TO THE SOUND ...
OF MY HEART.
SFX: BABUMP BABUMP BABUMP
9
トクーン
トクーン
トクーン
トクーン
トクーン
トクーン
トクーン
CAN YOU HEAR IT?
THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, THUMP ...
トクーン
トクーン
トクーン
HEART-BEAT ...
SHIRO-GANE'S ...
AH!

WHEN I WAS TRAVELING WITH MAITRE GUY...
THE ONLY SOUND MY HEART MADE WAS CLICK, CLICK.

I HATED THE SOUND OF MY OWN HEART.


ALWAYS PRECISE AND ACCURATE, JUST LIKE A MACHINE ...
CLICK, CLICK... IT WAS AS IF I WERE A CLOCK.

... BUT ...
WHEN I GREW UP, A CERTAIN PERSON GAVE ME A REAL HEARTBEAT.

A DREAM OF A MECHANICAL GIRL WIELDING A PUPPET TO DESTROY MECHANICAL DOLLS THAT WERE JUST THE SAME AS HER IN THE END...
IT WAS A NIGHT-MARE

SHIRO-GANE ...
WHEN THAT PERSON IS IN DANGER, MY HEART SCREAMS WITH FRIGHT.
WHEN THAT PERSON SMILES, MY HEART THUMPS LOUDLY WITH HAPPINESS.
THAT PERSON ...
IS YOU, YOUNG MASTER.

SFX: BUMP BUMP BUMP

IT'S BECAUSE OF ANOTHER PERSON ...
WHO LIVES ON IN YOUR MEMORIES AS WELL, YOUNG MASTER.

12

I THINK THAT ...
HUMAN BEINGS ARE HUMAN BECAUSE ...
THEY TAKE THEIR LIFE, AND MAKE IT PART OF THEMSELVES.

SHI-RO-GA-NE ...
YOUNG MASTER, YOU THINK I WOULD BE HAPPY IF I FORGOT ALL THESE PARTS OF MYSELF ...?
I THINK ... YOU ARE MIS-TAKEN.

I WILL NOT FORGET.
I WANT TO LIVE BY MAKING EVERYTHING I EXPERIENCE ...
A PART OF MY HEART-BEAT.

I THINK MY FEELINGS FOR... THAT OTHER PERSON... MIGHT BE A VERY DIFFERENT KIND OF LOVE...
かぁぁ

SHIROGANE... YOU LOVE THIS GUY PERSON, DON'T YOU ...?

YES ...
BUT I...

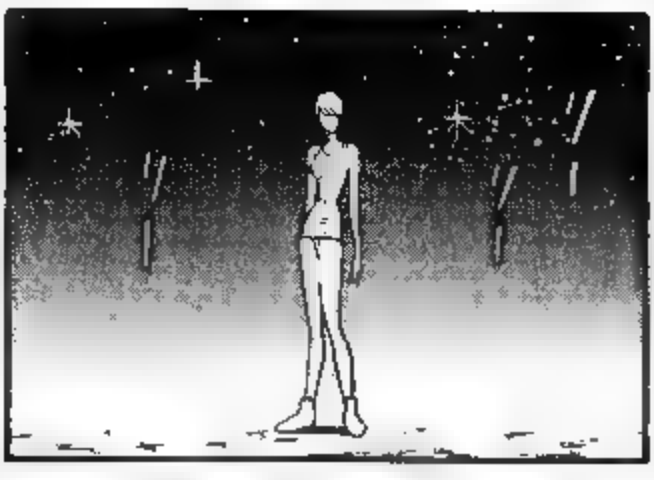
YOU'RE SO INNOCENT ...
SHIRO-GANE ...

SHIRO-GANE.
I LOVE YOU TOO ...

I ...
I ALSO ...
HM?

GOOD NIGHT.
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME FOR THAT.
G'NIGHT, SHIRO-GANE!

OH, MY ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH, YOUNG MASTER.
ぽおお



IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE HUMAN.
THE SOUND OF MY HEART

BUT... WHAT A COINCIDENCE ... THAT I SHOULD COME TO THE VERY CIRCUS...
WHERE ÉLÉONORE AND THAT BOY LIVE... AND THAT NARUMI SHOULD HAVE ENCOUNTERED THEM AS WELL
DIF- FERENT FROM HER FEELINGS ...
FOR THAT OTHER PERSON ...? I'M A LITTLE HURT ...

MA- MAN.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU ASKED OF ME...
FUFU ... YES, I KNOW.

ドドドド

ANGELINA
...
MAMAN
...

ヒュウウウ

I WAS THINKING OF MY LATE DAUGHTER.
... IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT ...

SOME-THING WRONG, LUCILLE?
.....

YOU'VE FOUND THE ONES YOU SHIROGANE HAVE BEEN CHASING ALL THIS TIME.
AFTER ALL...

BUT I GUESS IT'S NO WONDER.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

〈掲載・週刊少年サンデー平成12年36号より平成12年46号まで〉

からくりサーカス⑯

少年サンデーコミックス

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One of the chapters this volume ran a few pages longer, so there's no omake this volume. A new arc begins next week!

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